

THE JOURNAL

Friday, December 7, 2001

50 cents (tax included)

Man About Town Just bargaining on the dock of the Bay [A3]

Arts Hunting down the 'Last Smoker in Berkeley' [C3]


MARTIN SNAPP takes you on his annual peek into the bulging mailbag of Santa Claus and tells how you can play Santa yourself. It's all on page C8.

Toy drive facing difficult holidays

■ West County food, gift collection effort coming up short; donors with money, time or storage space can still help out

By Leslie Fulbright
STAFF WRITER

RICHMOND — It has been almost two weeks and the toy barrels at local fire stations are still empty. There are only a few turkeys in the freezer. And cash donations have virtually stopped. Firefighters, police and volunteers who organize the annual toy and food giveaways in West County are starting to sweat. They worry that this Christmas the hungry may stay hungry and the needy — who depend on donated gift bags — could be out of luck.

In past years firefighters

TO HELP

Bring toys to any fire station in El Cerrito, Kensington or Richmond, to the front of the El Cerrito Target Store on weekends from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or to the Hall of Justice at 401 27th St., Richmond.

The program also accepts monetary donations, which should be made out to "Firefighters Toy Program" and sent to: Toy Program, c/o Richmond Fire Department, 330 25th St., Richmond, CA 94804.

staffed a location in an empty storefront at El Cerrito Plaza, where shoppers could leave a donation and kids could get their pictures taken with Santa Claus.

The Plaza reconstruction this year left no space for the program and firefighters instead have taken their barrel to the front of the El Cerrito Target

store on weekends from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Whether it's because of the relocation, the distractions of the aftermath of Sept. 11, or the economic downturn, "So far this year donations are down," said Richmond firefighter Rod Woods.

Firefighters themselves have been preoccupied by assisting with disaster relief after the attacks in New York, where Woods recently returned from fund-raising.

People interested in making a donation to the program can bring a new, unwrapped toy to any fire station in Richmond, El Cerrito or Kensington. Or they can take toys on weekends to the El Cerrito Target store, where Santa Claus is expected to make an appearance (no photos will be available this year, however).

In particular, Woods said, the

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Damon bows out, Abelson is new El Cerrito mayor

New Councilwoman Letitia Moore becomes the city's first African American elected official

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — It was standing-room-only when Larry Damon stepped down, Janet Abelson moved up and Letitia Moore took her place at the dais.

The City Council's annual reorganization took place Monday night and Councilwoman Abelson became Mayor Abelson and Moore was sworn in as El Cerrito's newest council member.

Before stepping down as mayor and retiring from the council, Damon wished the new council well. After Moore was sworn in, the audience broke into applause and stood to cheer.

Moore is the first African American to serve on the El Cerrito City Council.

"I feel incredibly honored to have been elected," she said.

More than 80 people attended the meeting and the party afterward that included many civic leaders and friends and family of Abelson and Moore.

Former El Cerrito mayors and council members at the meeting included Jane and Rich Bartke, Jose Rizo, Ken Bernhardt and Howard Abelson, the new

mayor's husband, who himself was on the council in the 1980s.

Others included County Supervisor John Gioia, 14th Assembly District candidate and former Berkeley mayor Loni Hancock and Berkeley Councilwoman Miriam Hawley.

Citing the re-opening Plaza shopping center, the planned new Swim Center and other projects around town, Mayor Abelson said the upcoming year promises to be a good one for the city.

"Although this is an uncertain time for our country and for the economy, 2002 will be one of implementation and completion for the city of El Cerrito," she said. "With our redevelopment agency newly emerged from hiatus and with public input at each and every step along the way, we will begin to implement a new redevelopment plan."

Before leaving the council, Damon was given a city plaque and mounted gavel service award.

"You have been willing to tackle the most difficult issues," Abelson told Damon.

In his parting remarks, Damon took one last humorous shot at his critics.

"While it has been a privilege and honor to serve in this office, the real reward has been all of the wonderful people that I have come to meet and know and

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JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

PARVIN VAFAR, served chocolate cake to customers at Tuesday's opening of the new El Cerrito Plaza Albertson's store on Tuesday.

Santa and a giant cookie show up for Plaza opening

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — It was a day of cold weather and high hopes. The new Albertson's grocery store opened in the Plaza Tuesday with a music combo from the high school, speeches from new Mayor Janet Abelson and store officials, in-store demonstrations and grants of \$55,000 to local nonprofit groups. Santa was

there, as was a big Oreo cookie giving out free samples.

Abelson called the grand opening a "major milestone" for the city. "It signifies the restoration of El Cerrito Plaza, the economic rebirth of the south end of our city," she told the crowd of more than 33 waiting to check out the new store.

The new 66,778-square-foot store includes a pharmacy with

a drive-up window, a delicatessen, bakery, Starbucks coffee bar, dry cleaners, video movie rentals, one-hour film processing, walk-in beer cooler and flower shop. First-day customers praised the wide aisles, friendly employees and overall appearance of the store.

"It's nice; it's very lovely," said Paula Cianciarulo of Berkeley. "It's been overdue for about 15

years," said her husband, Joe Cianciarulo.

The couple said they lived in Albany when the original Plaza opened in 1958. Paula said she plans to shop at the bakery, produce and meat departments at Albertson's, and is glad stores at the reconstructed Plaza are opening. "I don't go to downtown Berkeley to shop — too crowded and no parking."

City attorney departing for spiritual journey

By Kate Darby Rauch
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Last summer when 33-year-old Howard Stern

toured colleges with his teen-age son, he came away with far more than campus impressions.

What he discovered led to his recent decision to quit his job as El Cerrito's city attorney, after 10 years in the post.

What he discovered has blasted open his future. What he discovered is deeply connected to his past. While listening to his son chat with college advisors, while thumbing through university libraries and touring dorms, Stern got a yearning to study Jewish history. To study it deeply, more than the casual reading on

the topic he's done for years.

In January, he'll start a graduate program in Jewish studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. His son will start college about nine months later.

"What I'm interested in is Eastern European Jewish history. I'm interested in it because it's what I am," said Stern, who lives in Richmond. "Where it will lead I have no idea. Right now it's just important for me to learn it."

His interest, Stern said, isn't simply a desire to know his roots. His decision was no doubt influ-

enced by the death of his mother in May; his father died many years earlier.

Both of Stern's parents are from Jewish families who immigrated to New York from Eastern Europe. His mother's family is from Russia; his father's from Czechoslovakia. Stern, who grew up in Queens, New York, said he's fascinated by how European Jews stuck together for hundreds of years, through wars, rebellions and government upheavals, living in their own neighborhoods,

See STERN, Page A12

Schools hoping to cash in on lower 55% vote margin

■ Regional districts will be asking for more than \$7 million come March

By Suzanne Pardington
and Kara Shire
STAFF WRITERS

After decades of neglect and overcrowding, falling ceiling tiles and freezing classrooms, East Bay schools and community colleges are rushing to cash in on

new election rules that make it easier to pass bond measures.

Districts from Mt. Diablo to Castro Valley are asking voters to approve a total of nearly \$707 million in March, banking on the willingness of at least 55 percent of voters to support education despite tough economic times.

They hope to follow the lead of dozens of other districts across the state that already have prof-

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WORTH CHECKING OUT

Lions pancake breakfast

The community is invited to a pancake breakfast on Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon, on Sunday, Dec. 9 held by the El Cerrito Lions Club at the Masonic El Cerrito Center, 6822 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. Details: 510-233-6663.

Holiday Pancake Breakfast and Toy Drive

The El Cerrito Recreation Department's annual Holiday Pancake Breakfast and Toy Drive to benefit the David Hunter Memorial Scholarship Fund is from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8 at the Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. This year's event features the traditional visit from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, and a new addition, a puppet show performance of "The Nutcracker" at 10:30 a.m. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for the

firefighters' toy drive for underprivileged kids. Tickets are \$7 and include breakfast and the show. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Community Center or by phone at 510-215-4370.

Toddler Time

The Friends of the Albany Library present a new series: Toddler Time, for ages 16 to 36 months. The stories and stretches for little ones take place at the Albany Library Thursday mornings at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 13, 20, and 27. Sign up at the children's desk, or call 510-526-3720.

Lawyer in the Library

In cooperation with the American Bar Association, the Albany Library offers "Lawyer in the Library" the first Tuesday of every month from 6-8 p.m. A local attorney will consult to define

your problem, advise you of your options, get you started with a solution, and make a referral (usually low cost) when needed. Sign up at the Library's reference desk for a 15 minute session by calling 526-3720, ext 5 or by stopping by. Appointments are still available for Nov. 6 and Dec. 4.

Chanukah fair/concert

Celebrate Chanukah from 2:30-5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9 at the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut at Rose Street in Berkeley. A Chanukah fair/concert will feature Ira Levin performing music for the whole family. There will be holiday craftmaking for all ages, latkes, Chanukah cookies and more. Bring an unwrapped toy or book to wrap and donate to a family in need. Admission is free. Details: 510-848-0237, ext. 110.

ALBANY CHAMBER NOTES

Blending old and new on the avenue

By James Carter
CHAMBER MANAGER

The winter sky — even when it rains — is as much a part of the holiday season as exchanging gifts, family reunions, and hot spiced cider. And the experience of shopping outdoors beneath the winter sky, bundled up in wool and mufflers and caps, is one that cannot be matched by all the glitter of a mall.

That's one of the great things about shopping in Albany. Strolling up and down Solano and San Pablo Avenues, holiday lights sparkling, the scent of hot cocoa, fresh baked pastries, and a thousand other marvelous aromas tumbling in the cold clear air, well, it is just the perfect place to be during the holidays.

There's also something to be said about doing business with someone who offers items you can't find anywhere else, who will look you in the eye, and truly wants you to be happy — so you will come back again.

Albany is the perfect marriage of old and new, traditional and modern. That's precisely why more and more folks are setting up show here.

Take Five Little Monkeys, for example, a marvelous little toy store that had its grand opening just last week. Located on the 1200 block of Solano Avenue, Five Little Monkeys offers toys you just won't find anywhere else. Really.

During their grand opening last week, children wandered around the shop with their parents in tow, eyes wide with astonishment as they gobbled down chocolate chip cookies and gazed at gadgets and toys

and playthings. One little boy eyed a toy and declared to his mother with filial piety, "Now I have a reason to save my allowance!"

And just a couple of doors down there's Sisters, a charming, truly unique shop that, among other things, has that antique lamp, table, and chair you've always wanted, lovely linens, China, silverware, jewelry, and — well, go and take a look for yourself. The owner, Gayle Davis, will make you feel right at home.

Sisters, Sweet Potatoes, and Five Little Monkeys are three of many shops on Solano that are staying open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays during the holiday season. You can't miss them — they quite literally glow in the dark.

That is the beauty of Albany. We are a small town that combines the best of the old and the new, a sweet, sane place where you can shop under the winter sky and deal directly with merchants — folks who don't just want your business, but want you to be happy so you will come back.

Community Spirit: Members of the Albany Chamber care about this town and are willing to work hard and volunteer to preserve it.

Take Chamber member Bill Johnson, for instance. Last week, Bill and fellow Lions Club members Art Longpre and Bruce Dixon too, time from their busy schedules, climbed to the top of the antique-style street lamps on Solano Avenue, and decorated them with holiday lights.

Though dark clouds rolled across the sky that day — a

storm that later washed the streets and sidewalks clean — there they were, 20 feet in the air, trimming the lamps with as much care as one might decorate a Christmas Tree.

Then there is Elisabeth Bell, the Chamber's Treasurer and an active member for over nine years. Elisabeth is a charming and elegant woman, soft-spoken, sweet, and truly selfless. She views every member of the Chamber as family, and, like a devoted mother, is always — always — there when you need her.

But if you mess with her family, watch out. Elisabeth is a sentry, guarding the interests of her extended family. Her skills as a bookkeeper are unsurpassed.

Holiday Raffle: Make sure you get a handful of our Holiday raffle tickets this year. The first prize is an Apex digital DVD/Video CD player. This is an incredible machine, far superior to those currently selling for \$100 each. Second prize is \$100 in Disney bucks, and third is a three month membership at the Albany YMCA. But there's more — much more, including gifts from Mary and Joe's, gift certificates from Nizza La Bella, Club Mallard, Five Star Video, the Solano Grill and Bar, tickets for the Albany Cinema, and a dozen other prizes all donated by local merchants. With so many prizes and just 2,000 tickets available, the odds of winning something are quite good indeed. And it all goes toward a good cause — supporting the work of the Albany Chamber. Tickets are \$1 each. For more information call 525-1771.

IN BRIEF

Albany Library lands two grants

ALBANY — The Albany Library has been awarded two grants, one to digitize the photographs in the Albany Library Historical Collection and make them available through Alameda County's online catalog and another to set up a homework center at the Albany Library for high school students in the areas of math and science.

Albany reference librarian Richard Russo wrote the successful Library Services and Technology Act grant for \$48,690 to digitize the photographs. The Albany Library will be working with the Online Archive of California to establish a model for other historical collections in the

County Library system.

Lara Shuttleworth from the Alameda County Library Foundation secured funding from the Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream Foundation and the Alba Witkin Charitable Trust for the homework center.

The Albany Library also hosted the first program in the Alameda County Library Foundation's Fall Author Series featuring Chitra Divakaruni, who gave a presentation about writing from the immigrant experience and read from some of her works.

Forum on coping with holiday stress

ALBANY — A forum called "Successful Coping Strategies to

Manage Stress and Avoid the Holiday Blues" will be held at 11:45 a.m. Sunday at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Ave.

The forum is an opportunity explore what people can do to manage holiday and social obligations. It will be moderated by Patricia Burkett, life planning counselor and author of "Relief Grief."

Penny James, a social worker and child welfare specialist, will outline stress-free coping strategies. St. Alban's Rector Jim Stickney, author of "The History of Galilee," will lend his crisis-intervention expertise. Other participants will share their views for surviving the holidays.

The forum is free. For more

See BRIEFS, Page A3

POLICE REPORTS

Suspect arrested in knife-wielding incident

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — At 1:45 a.m. Dec. 1 police arrested two people, a 20-year-old man and a 21-year-old woman, both residents of Richmond, for auto theft. The arrests were made after police stopped their vehicle in the 11600 block of San Pablo Avenue. The car they were in had earlier been reported as stolen. The man was taken to county jail and the woman was released pending further investigation.

At 6 p.m. Dec. 1 a man brandished a knife at the manager of the Denny's restaurant in the 11300 block of San Pablo Avenue. The man fled the scene via an AC Transit bus. The suspect, a 45-year-old Hayward resident, was later identified and arrested for possession of a deadly weapon and brandishing a weapon.

At 2:20 p.m. Nov. 28 police were notified that a suspected shoplifter was being detained by store employees at the Safeway grocery store on San Pablo Avenue. The suspect, a 45-year-old Richmond resident who had several felony warrants for his arrest, was arrested for petty theft with prior convictions and taken to jail.

At 10:30 a.m. Nov. 26 police received a report that security personnel of the Plaza Longs store had detained a man for entering the business office area and ransacking several desks.

The suspect, a 19-year-old Richmond resident, was arrested and taken to county jail in Martinez. At 6:50 p.m. Nov. 23 police arrested a 43-year-old Richmond man near San Pablo Avenue at San Diego Street who was riding a bicycle unsafely while under the influence.

On the morning of Nov. 22 it was reported that someone had made fraudulent charges on an El Cerrito man's credit card account.

On Nov. 22 a man violated a court restraining order, according to police reports. The suspect, a 22-year-old Richmond resident, reportedly went to a house in the 1400 block of Arlington Boulevard that he had been instructed to stay away from. The suspect knocked at the woman's bedroom window and then ripped down the screen and drapes. The woman inside the house said she was calling police. The suspect then dumped a ketchup mixture on the woman's parked car and fled the scene in his car.

Between 8:10 a.m. and 9:40 a.m. Nov. 21 somebody forced their way through a second-floor window of a home in the 7000 block of Cutting Boulevard. The thief or thieves searched the master bedroom and stole an estimated \$902 worth of property. An elderly woman in the house was not disturbed. Cost to repair the window is estimated at \$50.

At 9:30 p.m. Nov. 18 a 26-

year-old El Cerrito man was riding on the Ohlone Greenway near Waldo Avenue northbound when he was approached by two men. The men cursed the man and pushed him, but the man was able to stay on his bike and ride to safety.

Sometime between 11 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. Nov. 17 somebody broke into a home in the 1800 block of Arlington Boulevard. The burglar or burglars got in through an unlocked window, apparently from the roof of the house, and stole television and stereo worth more than \$3,000, were stolen.

At 8:25 p.m. Nov. 16 a 19-year-old Richmond man was riding his bike northbound on the Ohlone Greenway near the intersection of Schmidt Lane three young men attacked him and stole his bike. One of the suspects was in the head with a knife and the others kicked him to the ground.

On the morning of Nov. 17 it was reported that someone driven a vehicle into the San Pablo Park causing deep tire tracks and severe grass damage. The suspect is a 19-year-old El Cerrito man.

At 10:59 p.m. Nov. 16 a 28-year-old Richmond man who was driving under the influence of alcohol was arrested after he crashed into a parked car with his Datsun.

Auto burglars again target Pierce Street

By K. Osborn

ALBANY — On the night of Nov. 26 officers located a gray '97 Mercury parked at 555 Pierce Street reported as stolen from San Mateo. They did not have anyone in custody and the owner was notified.

At about 1 a.m. on Nov. 28 officers stopped two subjects in a white Ford in the parking lot of Safeway on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue. They had responded to reports of two subjects who had stolen items from the store. Officers arrested the two Richmond men, ages 34 and 39, for theft. They were transported to the Berkeley jail.

At about 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 27 officers contacted a Richmond man in the Salvation Army lot on the 1400 block of Solano Avenue who was going through donated items. Officers determined he was under the influence of a controlled substance and also in possession of a stolen bike. A check found he had outstanding warrants. He was arrested, cited and transported to the Berkeley jail.

On the morning of Nov. 28 Oakland police located an '89 Toyota Camry that had been reported as stolen from Albany on Nov. 17. The car was not damaged and they did not have anyone in custody. The owners was notified.

On the evening of Nov. 28 a resident on the 1300 block of Solano Avenue wanted to report his car as stolen. He had loaned it to a friend who had failed to bring it back. Police took the report.

On the evening of Nov. 28 officers responded to the AM/PM on the 1000 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a customer who had stolen food items. Officers searched the area and located the 38-year-old transient man in a storage closet of a

nearby apartment building where he had previously been arrested for trespassing. A check found he had two Albany warrants in the amount of \$3,000 and was on parole for theft. He was arrested and transported to the Berkeley jail.

At about 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 28 Richmond police reported locating a white '88 Honda Civic reported as stolen from Albany. It was not damaged and they did not have anyone in custody. The owner was notified.

On the morning of Nov. 29 officers took reports of eight vehicles parked at 555 Pierce Street that had been broken into during the night. There were no witnesses to this crime spree.

At about 6:15 p.m. on Nov. 29 officers responded to reports of a subject who appeared to be intoxicated on the 1000 block of Solano Avenue. Officers contacted the 58-year-old Berkeley man and found he was indeed intoxicated. He also found he was on probation for being drunk in public. He was arrested, cited and held to be released when sober.

At about 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 29 a resident reported that her light blue '83 Toyota Corolla had been stolen while it was parked on the 400 block of Cornell Avenue. There were no witnesses.

On the morning of Nov. 30 a resident on the 1000 block of Peralta Avenue reported that during the night thieves broke into her white Honda civic and stole items from inside. There were no witnesses.

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Floating dreams recycled at Berkeley Marina auction

In an earlier column I predicted (without much fear of being wrong) that there would be bargains at a lien sale auction at the Berkeley Marina. And there were bargains, surprises and further proof that man does not live by bread alone.

It was a sunny day and a better than average crowd of about 50 or 60 people gathered to bid on the boats whose owners had fallen behind in their dock fees. All craft sold were cheap-rigged sailboats with a mainsail and a jib.

A 19-foot O'Day up for auction was "liberated" by someone prior to the sale. The lucky holder of the vessel was out with bolt cutters and the boat taken. News for the old owner or whoever took her: You are going to be in hot water if you try to register or sell the boat. Bureaucracy trumps piracy these days.

Minimum bid was \$100, and two boats went for that figure. One was a racy old 27-foot Abbot complete with bicycle and outboard motor. The second was a 25-foot American which must have had problems that did not meet my eye. And a nice-looking, 26-foot Islander Excelsior went for only \$225.

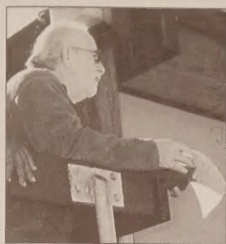
Bidding was hot on a well maintained, 22-foot Catalina with a Honda outboard which sold for a grand. One aficionado told me the motor was worth \$800, and this was, "the boat of the day." A cute, 22-foot Santana — my dream boat — brought \$1150.

The biggest boat in the sale, a 34-foot Seafarer, fetched \$7,000. But not for long. Owners have 10 days after the auction in which to pay their back dock fees and reclaim their boats, and this one did. You can live pretty comfortably on a boat this size, so for some they are housing as well as recreation.

A surprise of another kind came when the unusual weight of people on the dock popped up a section of it, marooning some of the far end. Harbor Master and Marina Supervisor Ann Harding got a crew to work immediately, and they patched the dock with amazing alacrity. People who work around the water learn of necessity to move fast and efficiently.

Harding was pleased with the turnout and especially that all the boats were sold. The city of Berkeley collects what is owed in past dock fees, and the rest goes to the Department of Motor Vehicles. If the owner can be located within three years, he or she gets the balance back. If the owner can't be found, the money goes to the Department of Boating and Waterways for capital improvements of marinas.

The real benefit of such a sale to a marina is to be rid of neglected boats and replace them with craft that bring in



DAVE GREER
Man About Town

THE AUCTIONEER presents some nautical bargains at the Marina.

revenue. Boats that aren't sold are eventually hauled out and "crushed," an expensive process made more so by environmental regulations.

Beyond these practical considerations, there is just something wrong about usable craft being destroyed or left to rot. Each one represents the death of a dream, but the person who buys one has a new dream strong enough to overcome the nagging of caution, perhaps even the grumbling of common sense. And so both the boat and the dream are recycled.

There are, of course, those who take a more cynical view of the process. "The two happiest days of a man's life are when he buys a boat and when he sells it," one fellow told me. But the cynic's mask slipped to reveal the visionary when I saw him bidding on a boat.

Harding, who has spent her life on the water and around boats, summed it up this way: "I like to see these boats go to new owners who will fix them up and sail them again." And that's certainly the water line of what happened at this auction.

IT'S THE OIL, STUPID! For years people have explained to me that all of this country's foreign policy is based on just one thing: oil. They do this with the condescending air of those who have deciphered a geopolitical Rosetta stone yielding truths inaccessible to a dunce like me.

The first to enlighten me about our oil-driven foreign policy was a friend from the olden, golden days when we were more involved in sailing and partying than politics. She was later a staffer in John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign and subsequently pulled on many a leftist political oar.

"What oil?" I asked naively. I was not convinced by her answer, so I wrote off this explanation of the war along with the those which followed as nonsense or oversimplification.

But since I read a story about a talk by Egyptian author, university teacher, and human rights activist, Nawal Saadawi, I have come to see how wrong I was. Tom Lochner, crack reporter for the West County Times, went to UC Berkeley and recorded the words of this eru-

dite woman and others in the like-minded audience.

Lochner quoted Saadawi as saying that the war in Afghanistan is really, "a war to exploit the oil in the Caspian area." She spoke of a proposed pipeline for oil and gas through Afghanistan. A member of the audience, Shireen Vickford of Menlo Park, stated without contradiction, that the attack on the World Trade Center gave the U.S. government and the oil industry, "a wonderful excuse" to start a war to secure the pipeline.

Saadawi also charged that the "holy books" of all religions are really "political books," and that President George Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and Pope Paul II are "alike" and guilty of using religion for their own ends.

Under logical hammer blows like these my skepticism about the lust for oil being the root of all our wars began to crumble. And then Saadawi clinched her case in my mind with this question: "The pope visited Uzbekistan before the (American) soldiers came. See the connection between the pope, the oil, and the war?"

Of course I did! Why else would the pope go there or anywhere else? The scales of decades of delusion fell from mine eyes, and the true history of our wars flashed before them in the following epiphany:

The Gulf War was obviously fought for oil; hardly anybody even bothered to deny it. Now we know that Vietnam has some oil onshore and probably more offshore. The Korean conflict was a "police action" and so does not count.

In 1941 the Japanese were moving to acquire all the oil in Southeast Asia, so we engineered an oil embargo that cut off their oil and forced them to attack Pearl Harbor. This gave us the excuse to smash them and secure the oil for ourselves. Allied with Japan, Germany was also prevented from seizing the oil in the Middle East and Russia.

World War I historians adduce many causes for this conflict; however, the real one was Germany's attempt to seize Russian and Middle Eastern oil by war and through an alliance with the Ottoman Empire. This brought Germany and Austria into conflict with the capitalist imperialists in Europe and America.

Any questions? There will be a quiz next week. Get some round, wire-rimmed, Karl Marx-style spectacles and you will see all this as clearly as I do now.

El Cerrito Plaza owner buys shopping center in Emeryville

■ The Powell Street Plaza is sold to Regency Centers for \$37 million

By Chris Metinko
STAFF WRITER

The plaza credited with starting the retail boom in Emeryville has a new owner.

Powell Street Plaza, right off Interstate 80 and next to the wildly popular Ikea home-furnishings store, has been sold to Jacksonville, Fla.-based Regency Centers for \$37 million. Regency owns and operates 268 retail properties in 23 states. The company has properties in Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles and Seattle as well as the Bay Area.

Thomas Engberg, senior vice president of investments for Regency Centers, said the deal was atypical for Regency because 96 percent of the malls and plazas it owns have grocery stores in them.

"We make an exception when we find exceptional real estate," said Engberg, who works out of the company's Walnut Creek office. "The mix (in stores) there is

very good."

This will not be the company's first venture into the East Bay. Regency also owns the El Cerrito Plaza, Country Club Village in San Ramon, Diablo Plaza, Tassajara Crossing in Danville, San Leandro Plaza, and Encina Grande in Walnut Creek.

Kevin Van Voorhis at Colliers International in Walnut Creek brokered the deal for the plaza's former owner, UBS Realty Investors. Van Voorhis said the property had been on the market for around a year, and the deal with Regency took about 60 to 90 days to complete.

Van Voorhis said UBS decided to sell the property, which includes a Trader Joe's, Ross and Circuit City, because it "had accomplished all its goals with the project." UBS had owned the property for more than 10 years, Van Voorhis said. The shopping center sits on 12 acres and has 169,551 square feet of rentable space.

The deal was made even more appealing to Regency, according to Engberg, because of the other developing projects in the area, including the \$200 million Bay

Street project by Cincinnati-based developer Madison Marquette.

The project will have a 200-room hotel and condominiums. Merchants who have preleased shops include Barnes & Noble, Old Navy, Banana Republic, Talbot's, Ann Taylor Loft and The Gap. Eateries so far are Pregos, MacArthur Park Restaurant and California Pizza Kitchen. AMC Theatres will operate a 16-screen, stadium seating-style movie theater.

Engberg said he thinks the new retail center will actually be a benefit to the Powell Street Plaza.

"In our view, that development only creates a greater critical mass of retailers, which makes this much more of a destination for shopping," Engberg said.

Engberg said Regency, while concerned with the current economy, does not think sales at the plaza will drop to worrisome levels. "Right now, sales at the plaza are at such a threshold, that if a drop in sales did occur, it would have to be very, very significant for it to hurt the center," he said.

Police

FROM PAGE A2

ing drunk in public and for resisting officers. He was cited and released to his father with a Notice to Appear.

Briefs

FROM PAGE A2

information, call parish secretaries 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday at 510-525-1716 (or leave a recorded message any time).

Puppet shows, art tours for family day

BERKELEY — A free holiday family day for children and adults will be held noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 25, at the Judah L. Magnes Museum, at 2911 Russell St., and the Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center at 1414 Walnut St.

Museum events include exhibition tours, art projects and live music by Gerry Tenney and California Klezmer at 2 and 3 p.m. Docent-guided tours will take visitors through Jewish art and history, with over 250 objects from the museum's permanent collections on display in "Telling Time: To Everything there is a Season." Visitors will also see two installations evoking Middle Eastern heritage: Greek-American Sophia Tsavalas' "Ancestral Ascent" and Iranian-American Taraneh

Hemami's "Re-counting."

At the community center, a 30-minute puppet musical called "Princess Moxie Rules!" will be shown at 1 and 3 p.m., and a puppet-making project will highlight the afternoon. In the puppet show, which includes original songs and lyrics, San Francisco puppeteer and educator Jennifer Levine turns time-tested rules of fairy tales upside down, creating a princess who is self-confident and active.

Snacks and beverages will be provided at both locations.

Poets sought for dinner contest

BERKELEY — The call is out for poets about searching, which is the theme of the 76th Poets' Dinner contest, open to all, with a Jan. 16 postmark deadline. Other poem categories are: beginnings and endings, humor, nature, love, spaces and places, people, and poet's choice.

Poems can be in any form or style but must be original, unpublished, in English, and not previous prize or honorable mention winners. Maximum of 40 lines per poem, maximum entries are three, with one poem per category. There is no entry fee.

Entries must be typed on one side of 8½- by 11-inch paper, with the category in the upper right-hand corner of each page. Send without author's name. To claim awards, authors must be present at the awards lunch on March 16, at the Holiday Inn, Emeryville.

Top award in each category is cash; books are awarded for honorable mentions.

Mail three clear copies of each entry to Joyce Odam, 2432 48th Ave., Sacramento, CA 95822. Lunch tickets are \$23 in advance, \$24 at the door. Specify baked chicken, London broil or meatless lasagna, and mail check payable to Poets' Dinner, attn. Richard Angilly, 1515 Poplar Ave., Richmond, CA 94805-1662.

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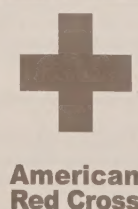
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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Alameda Sheriff's Department needs to change pursuit policy

There's a car stolen every day in the East Bay. Actually, it's much worse than that. According to police statistics, last year there were 17.4 cars stolen every day in Berkeley, Oakland, Piedmont, Alameda, Albany and El Cerrito. In all, there were 6,352 cars stolen in the five communities in 2000, and already over 6,000 through the first 10 months of this year.

Oakland accounts for the bulk of those numbers (4,864 vehicle thefts in 2000 and 4,370 through October of this year). But numbers are on the rise this year in all of the communities except Alameda.

- El Cerrito— 184 in 2000; 187 through August of this year
- Alameda— 329 in 2000; 267 through October of this year
- Oakland— 4,864 in 2000; 4,370 through October of this year
- Piedmont— 23 in 2000; 42 through October of this year
- Berkeley— 960 in 2000; 1,025 through October of this year
- Albany— 92 in 2000; 110 through October of this year

The good news is that many of those stolen cars are recovered within 48 hours, often in communities very close to where the theft occurred. The current trend, it seems, is that cars are stolen for the purpose of immediate transportation, and they are usually found in a neighboring city.

That's what makes the recent high-speed pursuit of a stolen vehicle by the Alameda County Sheriff's Department all the more baffling. If the odds were that the stolen vehicle would turn up in less than 48 hours, say in Fremont or Richmond, why the need for a dangerous chase through Hayward and San Leandro? It was that pursuit that resulted in the death of an innocent 19-year-old girl.

In the pre-dawn hours of Nov. 27, Karen Gordin, a sophomore at Cal State Hayward and an intern at KTVU-Channel 2, was on her way to work as a morning life-guard. Her car was struck head-on by a stolen vehicle — a van being hotly pursued by two Alameda County sheriff's cars.

The alleged thief, an unlicensed driver on probation after conviction for another auto theft earlier in the year, apparently lost control of the van in her effort to evade the sheriff's officers. The result was the death of Karen Gordin on the morning of her 19th birthday, and injuries to another innocent motorist involved in the accident.

There may be a time when a high-speed chase would be appropriate on city streets, but only when police are in pursuit of a suspect thought to be a threat to the safety of others. Even in such a case, however, surveillance by helicopter would be the preferred alternative.

Clearly, a car thief does not pose that kind of threat. Certainly, the mere apprehension of a criminal cannot be worth the risks a high-speed pursuit will create.

The actions of officers, it seems, were well within the parameters of department policy, which allows for such pursuits in cases of vehicle theft. However, such a policy is in direct conflict with the first phrase of the department's mission statement: "To protect life."

The officers most certainly did not "protect life" in this particular case.

We have great faith in the abilities of our law enforcement personnel, who are trained in safe-driving techniques and very capable of controlling their vehicles at high rates of speed. It would be those they pursue, who most certainly do not possess those skills, posing the problem to the public at large.

Policy or not, this pursuit was ill-advised. The Alameda County Sheriff's Department needs to review and change this policy immediately before another pursuit results in yet another tragedy.

There is no equity in trading a life for a car thief.

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HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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IT'S LETTERS TO SANTA TIME



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A misguided plan

As a 26-year Navy veteran, I'm appalled with President Bush's plan to use military tribunals to try people his administration labels terrorists.

He is appealing to our emotions subsequent to Sept. 11 to cover a misguided, ill-conceived, and unnecessary abrogation of our civil rights and constitutionally guaranteed legal procedures.

Bush's use of President Roosevelt's World War II precedent as justification ignores the fact that FDR had a congressional declaration of war to support his use of tribunals. President Bush does not!

Bush claims the plan contains "implementations" of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Not true. The code demands a public trial, proof beyond reasonable doubt, an accused's voice in the selection of jurors and right to choose counsel, unanimity in death sentencing and, above all, appellate review by Senate-confirmed civilians. None of these guarantees are in Bush's military-tribunals decree.

With these tribunals, the administration gives up any moral high ground in dealing with countries such as China, as we work to get them to improve human rights.

I ask those supporting these military tribunals: What's the difference between China's communist leaders trying students they called the "terrorists of Tiananmen Square" in their secret military courts and Bush's plans to try al-Qaida terrorists in their secret military tribunals?

Have Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft lost faith in the U.S. legal system, which guarantees our civil liberties?

I urge all to write to their congressional representatives, asking them to oppose this plan. In troubled times such as these, we need presidential leadership consistent with our Constitution, not "royal" decrees that ignore our core values.

Alan C. Miller
El Cerrito

Miller is a retired Navy captain.

Counsel for officials

We're fresh off another election season — when you can hardly go out your front door without stumbling across council candidates or one of their supporters. When campaign fliers in the mail tell us the wonderful things our elected officials have done for us over the past few years. When candidates go to forums and talk about all the clever ways they could get information to residents about city business and hear their concerns.

Now, I fear, it's time to shift back into the mode in which the primary form of council-resident communication is meetings, where council members make lengthy comments about minutia and residents squirm in their seats out of bore-

dom or frustration; usually, by the time the elect officials are making their most outrageous comments, the public's window of opportunity to speak has passed.

Only the most impassioned residents — and thank goodness for them — are listening and questioning. The vast majority has only an inkling of what elected officials do between election seasons.

Here's a simple suggestion for our elected officials. Don't wait until the next election, when you'll have to pay to get your message out and it will be received with skepticism. Take a few minutes now and then throughout your term to write a few paragraphs about an issue you think is important.

Send it to www.ElCerritoWire.com, to the Journal and the West County Times/West County Weekly. Post it on the city's web site. When you interview people for city commissions, ask them if they'll do the same. Let city employees know it's part of their job to keep us informed.

Betty Buginas
El Cerrito

Buginas is the editor of www.ElCerritoWire.com.

Constitutional rights

I keep hearing people insist that terrorists do not deserve the same constitutional protection of civil liberties the rest of us in America enjoy. In fact, I have read that opinion in letters to the editor in this newspaper.

I can't argue, per se; convicted felons routinely lose a number of civil liberties when they enter prison. The key word here, though, is "convicted." How do we know someone is really a terrorist without a fair trial?

By following the guidelines in the Constitution, I am proud to report this nation has the world's best system to objectively determine the guilt or innocence of a defendant, and no patriotic citizen should stand by in silence when anyone threatens that system.

All my life I've heard people say, "America: love it or leave it!"

Now it is my duty, as an American, to let my voice be heard: If you don't like the U.S. Constitution, if you prefer a regime that isn't so particular about determining guilt or innocence, that cravenly places security ahead of the sacred liberty that generations of American soldiers have died to defend, then there are plenty of other countries from which to choose.

Dolores J. Nurss
El Cerrito

Past and future

It's been rewarding to serve as mayor of Albany this past year. Albany has many wonderful residents who serve our community well.

Of our accomplishments, those most

rewarding are:

- Funding of projects for Albany Traffic Management Plan, including the purchase of portable speed tables to ease their impact on speeding, installation of crosswalk improvements, and a complete simulation of Marin Avenue traffic controls to assess their effectiveness.

- Eastshore Highway connection to Buchanan, to enhance redevelopment there.

- Eastshore State Park Plan to include Albany's prime locations for wildlife sanctuaries, water access, Bay vistas, and recreation activities.

- Cafe Eclectica for teenagers.
- The new high school.
- Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.

- The Albany Community Foundation, to fund worthy projects and events. Money's been raised and additional board members are needed.

On Dec. 3, Peggy Thomsen became mayor and Jewel Okawachi became mayor. I will continue serving on the City Council as we work to increase revenue to Albany and protect our revenue from the state; promote redevelopment and affordable housing; improve and increase parks, playgrounds and open space; approve zoning code revisions; and provide a new maintenance center and earthquake retrofitting for our police and fire stations.

Allan T. Marks
Albany

A dangerous precedent

We are disappointed that Senator Paul of Nevada withdrew his proposed legislation in Congress that would have prevented expanding Nevada type gambling (slot machines and blackjack with an 18 year old age minimum) at Casino Station Pablo upon transfer to a small band of Pomo Indians.

This type of gambling expansion would set a dangerous precedent for the expansion of organized Indian sponsored gambling into urban areas statewide.

After our marriage at the end of World War II, we bought a home in El Cerrito. With other young El Cerrito families, we enthusiastically entered into a City Council recall election campaign that resulted in a change to a city manager government that quickly eliminated organized gambling then prevalent in this small city.

There is no question in our minds that organized gambling in urban areas inevitably has a corrosive and corrupting effect on local civic or county government and can be detrimental to adjacent communities as well.

We urge Gov. Gray Davis to decline permission for this proposed expansion of Nevada style Indian gambling casinos into urban areas in California.

Eugene W. Lukes
Eileen B. Lukes
El Cerrito

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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EL CERRITO IN BRIEF

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

The City Council this week proclaimed today Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day in the city. "The citizens of El Cerrito will always remember and honor those who died on that day of infamy just as we will forever treasure the valuable lessons which all humanity had to learn from the terrible toll of World War II," the proclamation reads in part. "The greatest lesson from the war is that the cost of war must be measured in terms of human life and that human life is now and will always be our most precious resource."

Search underway for new city attorney

A subcommittee of the City Council has been appointed to

find a replacement for City Attorney Howard Stern, who announced his resignation effective in February.

Mayor Janet Abelson and Councilwoman Letitia Moore, herself an attorney with the Environmental Protection Agency, to begin the process to find Stern's replacement. Noting that the city attorney position is the only staff position other than city manager that is hired directly by the Council, Stern recommended "close Council involvement" in the recruitment process. He said that he, City Manager Scott Hanin and the council subcommittee of Abelson and Moore will work together on the process.

Stern said he plans to increase his involvement with the Walter & Pistole law firm of which he is counsel and will also begin a master's degree program in Jewish studies at the Graduate Theological Union at UC-Berkeley.

City will co-sponsor King Day event

The City Council unanimously approved a resolution to waive fees for use of the Community Center and support services for the city's 12th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration to be held Jan. 21, 2002.

Last month the Council approved the celebration as one of 10 city co-sponsored organizations or events. The city's Human Relations Commissions, the El Cerrito Branch of the NAACP and St. Peter Christian Methodist Episcopal Church of El Cerrito co-sponsor the event each year to honor the slain civil rights leader.

Program will again fund street trees

ALBANY — Local arborists can rejoice as the City Council has approved the planting of approximately 110 new trees along with the removal of concrete at 30 various residential sites in upcoming weeks.

The city's tree-planting program, now in its sixth year, puts between 100 and 150 trees in residential planting strips. Examples of larger-scale improvements have been the 800 block of Key Route Boulevard, and areas around the Adult School and Cornell School. All 110 trees planted this month will be in residential areas.

The city entered into a contract with the Urban Tree Foundation for an amount of just over \$19,000

that will be funded through the Caltrans Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grant Program, established in 1989.

For \$40, applicants were able to choose from about 20 types of trees, with the remainder of the cost taken care of by the grant. Replacement trees for those removed due to disease or death can be provided without cost.

The grant program authorizes the allocation of \$10 million annually to local, state, and federal

agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations.

This year's application for the 2001-02 grant cycle included a partnership with Oakland's Urban Tree Foundation that provides public education and community tree planting services. This year's tree planting ceremony is scheduled for the middle of the month.

For more information on replacing trees, contact the Community Development Department at 510-528-5760.

The Journal's Web site has news, features, letters, obituaries and sports stories at
<http://www.ContraCostaTimes.com/community/ElCerritoJournal/>
Online stories are published on Friday.

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Becky Nolasco has been a Vacation Specialist for over 15 years, and is recognized as a AAA Platinum Sales Achiever. She is also a Master Cruise Counselor and Asia Specialist. Becky is fluent in Spanish, and has enjoyed traveling to Hawaii, Mexico, Alaska, the Caribbean, South America, Europe and Asia.

Mary Potter has been a Vacation Specialist since 1990. She is a Certified Travel Associate and is recognized as a Specialist in Western Europe, the Caribbean, Hawaii and the South Pacific. Mary has lived in Italy and has traveled in Europe, Hawaii, Alaska, Mexico, the Caribbean and throughout the United States.

Janelle Potter has been with AAA for 12 years. She is both a Disney & Canada Specialist and has taken courses on Cruises, Mexico, Alaska & Hawaii. Janelle's favorite destinations are Mexico & Hawaii and she loves to cruise.

George Minarik has worked in the travel industry for 27 years. He has visited more than 50 countries and has sailed on most major cruise lines. George has been the Travel Agency Supervisor since the Richmond Hilltop office opened in 1991.

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Shop Oakland Contest is sponsored by Oakland Merchants Leadership Forum, Oakland's merchant and business community, City of Oakland, Hills Newspapers, The Oakland Tribune, East Bay Express, Oakland Recycles, City Center, AC Transit, Port of Oakland, Southwest Airlines and Broadway Shuttle.

Shop Oakland Contest Entry Form

No purchase necessary. One entry per person. Prize awarded by random drawing. Entries must be received by Sunday, December 31, 2001.

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Grand Lake Neighborhood Center, 530 Lake Park
Alcatraz Shade Shop, Telegraph
Jack's Bistro at Jack London Square
CA Savings & Loans, 1998 Mountain Blvd.

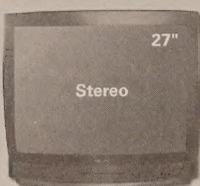
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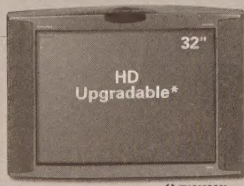
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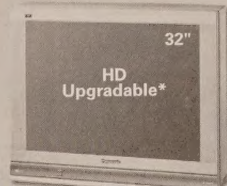
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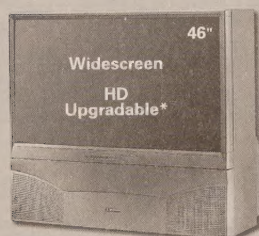
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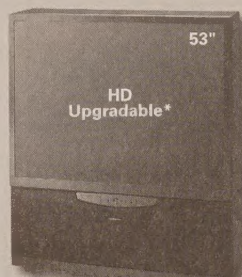
1599⁹⁹ Panasonic
Panasonic 32" PureFlat™ HD Upgradable™ Monitor/Receiver
PureFlat™ picture tube delivers realistic, distortion-free images from computer-corner. Features progressive scan doubler, 2 tuners for picture-in-picture and Dome sound system. CT32HX41



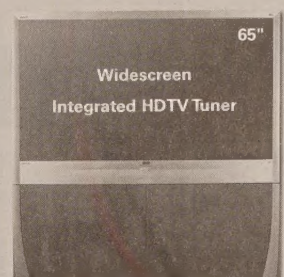
2499⁹⁹
Sony 36" Hi-Scan™ Flat Screen TV with CineMotion™
CineMotion™ minimizes motion blur so you see a smooth, realistic image. Features XBR™ tube with 16:9 chassis and enhanced 16:9 widescreen viewing. KVG36E1



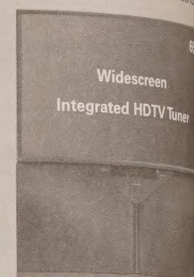
2199⁹⁹ MITSUBISHI
Mitsubishi 46" Tablet HD Upgradable™ Widescreen Projection TV
The biggest and sharpest high-resolution images you've ever seen, with highly accurate focus in the corners and along the edges. Dual-tuner PIP and picture-outside-picture give you one large image or up to 9 smaller images. WT46909



2499⁹⁹ TOSHIBA
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3999⁹⁹ SCENIUM
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Mitsubishi 65" Platinum Plus Integrated HDTV with NetCommons™
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Beatles' words and tunes set tone for a generation

Warning: Baby Boomer nostalgia ahead. Other generations proceed with caution.

I had already written another column for today. But when I heard that George Harrison had died, I had to tear it up and write about him, instead.

I wonder: Can other generations ever understand what the Beatles meant to mine? It wasn't just the way they changed haircuts or clothing styles. Or the way they introduced Americans to our own forgotten roots in rhythm & blues (and resurrected the careers of scores of black musicians in the process). Or even that amazing body of work — songs that still sound fresh today, when so many of their contemporaries' records sound hopelessly dated.

What we really looked to the Beatles for was nothing less than the Revealed Word of God. When each new Beatle album came out, we avidly pored over it for clues to how we should lead our lives. They were our ultimate moral arbiters.

When the Beatles said, "Question authority," we questioned authority. When they said, "Oppose the Vietnam war," we opposed the war. When they said, "Explore your inner light," we started medi-

tating. When they said, "Take drugs," we took drugs. And when George stopped taking drugs after a bad acid trip, many Beatle fans dutifully stopped taking them, too.

It was incredibly naive, but we actually believed it was possible to create a world where love, art and politics could come together in perfect harmony. It was a child's vision of heaven on Earth.

And that vision never really left us, even after we grew up. What other generations don't understand about Baby Boomers is that despite our yuppieism, we really don't care about material things. In fact, the more affluent we become, the more ambivalent we feel about our possessions. Most of us would secretly love to jettison them and embark on a simpler, more spiritual life. We don't want stuff, we want salvation (or, if you prefer, inner peace). And for almost four decades, we have looked to the Beatles to show us the way.

That's a terrifying responsibility to lay on anyone, as Harrison tried to tell us in the 1975 film he produced, "Monty Python's Life of Brian." It's an irreverent spoof of the life of Jesus Christ; but underneath the outrageous jokes, it's a deeply religious confession of faith.

The key scene occurs when

the Jesus-like Brian admonishes his cheering followers, "You have to stop expecting leaders to tell you what to do. You have to work it out for yourselves."

And the crowd shouts back, "Yes! We have to work it out for ourselves! Tell us how!"

■ ■ ■
We Boomers are the most introspective generation alive — far more than the "Can do!" G.I.s or the "Get real!" Generation X. When we've all passed from the scene, I believe history will say that our greatest contribution was our preoccupation — some would say obsession — with spirituality.

It's also our greatest weakness; witness the fratricidal "culture wars" of the '90s. The downside to introspection is that it can easily turn into narcissism, something other generations accuse us of all the time (not without reason). Righteousness can curdle into self-righteousness; witness Richard Gere and Jerry Falwell.

There's a scene about that in "Life of Brian," too — the one when every character who accidentally utters the forbidden name of God, "Yahweh," is immediately stoned to death. I ask you: Is there a better representation of the Taliban mindset than that?

■ ■ ■
The Buddha said that there

are many different paths to enlightenment. One path is good works, and the Beatles did plenty of that: John's opposition to the Vietnam war, George's Concert for Bangladesh, and Paul's campaigns against animal cruelty and land mines and his Concert for New York.

But another path lies inward. All the Beatles went on spiritual journeys, but George's was the most profound — and the most influential. I think the message of his life and death is this: Life is fleeting, so have fun, be kind, love a lot, and laugh a lot while you're here. But be aware that you're no more special than

anyone else. Everyone has to die; why not you?

Far from denying our mortality, we need to learn how to embrace it as a natural part of life. As St. Francis said, "Come, Sister Death." Or as George Harrison said, "All things must pass."

And, of course, we have this great consolation: As the late Laura Nyro wrote, "And when I die/And when I'm gone/There'll be one child born in this world/To carry on." Our final duty before we go is to help the next generation get ready to take over from us — as Ringo is doing with his "Thomas the Tank Engine" videos.



MARTIN SHAPIRO
Shapiro Store

For 35 years, the Beatles have taught us how to live. Now, one by one, they're leaving us how to die. There goes the music that here it comes again.

Phone Martin Shapiro at 273-9039 or e-mail him at martin@california.com. He's the author of the epiphany "The All-Much," from "Yellow Submarine." What's yours?

Solano Avenue offering holiday entertainment

More than 50 street performers — jazz bands, carolers, talking trees, and toy soldiers — will entertain during the holiday season on Saturdays and Sundays from 12-6 p.m. all along Solano Avenue in Berkeley and Albany. Schedules and locations.

Saturday Dec. 1

12-2 Rev. Rabia 1191 Solano
12-2 Alex Yaskin 1245 Solano
12-2 Live Xmas Tree 1823 Solano
2-4 Saul Flores Trio 1127 Solano
4-6 Kent Guthrie 1245 Solano
4-6 Balloon Twister 1849 Solano

Saturday Dec. 8

11:30-1:30 CA Golden Overtones 1757 Solano
12-2 Hot Popcorn 1191 Solano
12-2 Accordion Circle of the EB 1477 Solano
12-2 Toy Soldier 1603 Solano
2-4 Richard Kalman & Friends 1774 Solano
2-4 Yo-Yo Max 1880 Solano
4-6 Live Xmas Tree 1749 Solano

Saturday Dec. 15

12-2 Garin Hecht & Friends 1191 Solano
12-2 Live Xmas Tree 1603 Solano
12-2 Celtic Harp & Whistle 1745 Solano
2-4 Dana Smith and Performing Dog 1561 Solano
2-4 Eli Rosenberg 1714 Solano
2-4 Toy Soldier 1749 Solano
4-6 Cal Jazz Choir 1489 Solano
4-6 Saul Flores Trio 1741 Solano

Saturday Dec. 22

12-2 Garin Hecht & Friends 1191 Solano
12-2 Berkeley Community Chorus 1757 Solano

Solano
2-4 The Yo-Yo Lady 1224 Solano
2-4 Saul Flores Trio 1774 Solano
4-6 Kent Guthrie 1489 Solano
4-6 Live Xmas Tree 1855 Solano

Sunday Dec. 2

12-2 Saul Flores Trio 1801 Solano
2-4 Eli Rosenberg 1411 Solano
2-4 Richard Kalman and Friends 1774 Solano
4-6 Toy Soldier 1573 Solano

Sunday Dec. 9

12-2 Trio of Friends 1411 Solano
12-2 Albany Jazz Band 1561 Solano
12-2 Irish Harpist, Trish McGabhain 1745 Solano
2-4 Richard Kalman and Friends 1127 Solano

2-4 Eli Rosenberg 1224 Solano
4-6 Hot Popcorn 1823 Solano

Sunday Dec. 16

12-2 Trio of Friends 1325 Solano
12-2 Irish Harpist, Trish McGabhain 1519 Solano
12-2 Ensemble Tangle 1880 Solano
2-4 B. Millstein and L. Pelly 1745 Solano
2-4 Dana Smith and Performing Dog 1561 Solano
2-4 Richard Kalman and Friends 1774 Solano
4-6 Hot Popcorn 1411 Solano

Sunday Dec. 23

12-2 Irish Harpist, Trish McGabhain 1745 Solano
12-2 Rev. Rabia 1565 Solano

Chabad Festival of Lights will kick off in a big way

Chabad of the East Bay invites the Jewish community to celebrate Hanukkah at three community menorah lightings.

The first lighting will happen on the first night of Hanukkah, 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, behind Barnes and Noble bookstore in Jack London Square, Oakland. Mayor Jerry Brown will speak, and live music by the Bob Schoen band will be presented.

The second lighting will take place on the second night of Hanukkah, 5:30 p.m. Dec. 10 at Excedra Plaza in Piedmont.

The third will be held at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, at Cody's Books, 1730 Fourth St. Berkeley. Mayor Shirley Dean will speak.

The lightings will include the distribution of menorahs and candles, chocolate coins and dreidels. A clown will make balloon sculptures for children. All events are free.

Reservations or more information at 510-540-5824



MENORAH LIGHTINGS will be held in Oakland, Berkeley and Piedmont next week.

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Middle School
Each PTA for \$7 per member. Send
each PTA member's name, address,
the member's name, along
with the email address. Send in your
membership to Adams PTA, 5000 Pat-
terns Drive, Richmond, CA 94805. In
each PTA member will receive
invitation to the PTA Social Event
on the evening of Dec. 14. The
social event will be preparing ap-
petizers and desserts. The art class
will be making decorations. The VAPA
will be providing some great
entertainment. Taiko, Steel Pan, band,
etc. Be sure to have
your students, grandparents, siblings,
and friends join the Adams PTA so they
can enjoy this great evening.

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Prin. Conf. Room
Dec. 10, Band Boosters Meeting, 7
p.m., AHS Band Room SCRIP Orders:
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mail Edna at Ednaming@aol.com

Albany Middle School
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ments by e-mail. Contact Linda
Okamoto at ltopm@earthlink.net

Cornell Elementary
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2082 or e-mail Mark at prwvst@pac-
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Marin Elementary
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Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

AUSD Calendar
Dec. 24-Jan. 4, Winter Break: L no

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By Kara Shire
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Gray Davis agreed this week to eliminate the much-loathed audits of school district attendance records, bringing relief, and some confusion, to educators around the state.

The move will likely get the West Contra Costa school district off the hook for \$8.6 million the state had demanded the district repay after an audit showed that attendance rates had been grossly inflated.

Under the audit's findings, which were being appealed, the district would have continued to lose out on about \$2.5 million a year in state funding. With Davis' latest move, the three-year audit battle could simply disappear.

"It's really good news," said Joshua Morrison, an attorney representing West Contra Costa in its appeal. "It's the best news we've had since this process began."

Davis' behind-the-scenes agreement to nix the attendance audits will save the state \$3 mil-

lion a year, but still must be approved by the Legislature.

"This is one education cut that education people welcome," said Kevin Gordon, executive director of the California Association of School Business Officials.

"We don't like to see any kind of cuts, but this is one budget reduction we put on the table ourselves."

Educators around the state applauded the demise of the audits, which had long been blamed for wasting school time and money to duplicate a process already required by law and then reshuffle the recouped education dollars to other districts.

"The big problem with these audits was that they were trying to apply a standard in reviewing the attendance slips and excuse notes from 1996-97 ... by applying a standard that didn't exist at the time," said Scott Plotkin, executive director of the California School Boards Association.

"That in and of itself is something that was incomprehensible

to most people. And it was starting to cost school districts a lot of money. We thought it was a basic issue of fairness."

Lawmakers had asked school districts to create detailed reports of excused absences from the 1996-97 school year. Schools with spotty records — maybe a parent-written sick note was missing the date, or a log of a phoned-in absence didn't have the student's name — were told to return thousands of dollars to the state in overpaid attendance funding.

West Contra Costa was the first district in the state and the only one in Contra Costa or Alameda counties to be audited.

In 1999, the Richmond-area district was told to repay the state \$8.6 million when auditors found the district had overstated its excused absences by anywhere from 21 percent to 43 percent.

The district's appeal of that decision has not been resolved. But officials estimate West Contra Costa has doled out close to

\$470,000 to comply with, and then fight, the state's audit.

With no direct word from the governor's office, it was uncertain Wednesday what Davis' decision would mean for the district.

"We're cautiously optimistic that, after several years of pretty confrontational and pretty expensive litigation, we've seen a light at the end of the tunnel," Morrison said. "But we're going to take our time, look for some details."

Sandy Harrison, spokesman for the state Department of Finance, which is involved in the audits, said his read on Davis' move is that the audits are over.

"My understanding is that the state is just wiped clean," he said. "Whatever we've done so far, it's like it never happened. The intent at this time is just to discontinue the audits."

Kara Shire covers education. Reach her at 510-262-2798 or kshire@ccetimes.com.

Council

FROM PAGE A1

work with the last four years," Damon said.

He also thanked those who he said counseled him when he was wrong and offered him insight.

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Bond

FROM PAGE 1

ited from last year's Proposition 39, which lowered the threshold to pass school bonds from a two-thirds majority for districts that agree to stricter rules and oversight.

Experts expect the March election to be just as bountiful.

"I think the people really understand the importance of public schools," said Wayne Johnson, president of the California Teachers Association. "Whether the economy is good or bad, kids still have to get an education, because that is the key to the future."

Support of education aside, the 55 percent approval rate is expected to be the deciding factor in many bond elections. All but one of the 32 bond measures subject to the new approval rate on the November ballot passed, according to Goddard Claussen Porter Novelli, manager of the Prop. 39 campaign. Eleven of those bonds would have failed under a two-thirds requirement.

Up and down the state, schools are jumping on the Prop. 39 bandwagon.

"I have probably more elections on the March ballot than I've ever had before," said John Hartenstein, a school finance and bond attorney who consults several East Bay schools in bond elections.

Hartenstein said many districts have been unable to grab state construction dollars in the past because they have not had matching funds on hand — a prerequisite for state money. This year, as Gov. Gray Davis pushes for a \$30 billion package of statewide bonds, Hartenstein said many districts are working to get their matching dollars in the bank.

"If you want to be in line for that money you better have that local match ready," Hartenstein said.

The last statewide bond — \$9 billion from 1998's Proposition 1A — ran out last year and the state already has \$3.3 billion in requests for school modernization waiting for state assistance.

Davis has asked state lawmakers to reconvene in coming days to put a \$4 billion school construction bond measure on the March ballot. His spokesman, Steve Maviglio, said the governor also would like a \$6 billion school bond on the November ballot. Two more \$10 billion measures would follow in 2004 and 2006.

But it may already be too late

to place a statewide bond on the March ballot. The deadline is under dispute, and the Legislature, which must approve the measure, is not scheduled to reconvene until January. Legislative leaders indicated Tuesday they have not decided whether to comply with the governor's call for a special session this week.

If the \$4 billion proposal is not placed on the March ballot, Davis will seek a \$10 billion bond in November, Maviglio said.

Without that state bond, East Bay districts will be unable to get state matching funds they are counting on to stretch their own bond money.

Officials in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District — where the estimated cost of needed repairs, upgrades and new construction tops \$1 billion — have wanted to place a sizable construction bond on the ballot for several years, but thought it would not win two-thirds of the vote.

Dick Nicoll, assistant superintendent, said polls showed that without the lower threshold the district could have passed only \$100 million in bonds.

"With the size of our needs, that wasn't enough to make a dent," he said.

Mt. Diablo officials are confident they will meet the new 55 percent requirement with a \$250 million bond on the March ballot to replace aging portables with permanent buildings, build new classrooms for smaller kindergarten classes and complete dozens of other modernization and repair projects across the district.

"Our needs are genuine. If voters believe that, they will support us," Nicoll said.

Most California public schools were built in the post-World War II era, a time when phone lines in classrooms seemed excessive, when the dangers of asbestos were unknown, and when wheelchair accessibility was rarely, if ever, considered.

Such basic, long-deferred construction needs are what many East Bay districts are planning to fix with millions of bond dollars they hope voters will approve in March. But while some districts focus on the staples — heated classrooms, for example — others have more ambitious goals in mind.

Castro Valley is hoping to build a new performing arts center. John Swett wants to replace dilapidated Hillcrest Elementary, which sits on the fence line of a local refinery.

After two failed bond attempts, the Contra Costa Community College District is lowering its expectations in March, the third time in five years it has asked voters to approve a bond. This time, the college district is asking for \$120 million, roughly half the amount on the November 2000 ballot, when it missed the two-thirds mark by just more than one percentage point.

Chuck Spence, chancellor of the community college district, said he does not know if so many bonds on the ballot will help or hurt the district's chances. But the cost of the college bond will be shared throughout the county, he said.

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Service to schools and community is Dianne McNenny's mission

Dianne McNenny's activities and interest in schools in general and in the Albany area in particular have taken her into many community activities. She serves the schools in Albany preschool through high school, she was a member of the PTA, served as president in all of them, went on to the PTA council and to the PTA executive committee (program improvements). She ran for school board in 1998 and served on the board through 1998. She has recently become president of the board of the Albany Education Fund.



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

old high school was very stressful, she says. "When we got funds from Sacramento it was thoroughly miraculous. I was president then and it had never happened before."

She spoke of her many trips to Sacramento, and the long process passing bond measures. And, she added, Albany built on the past activities of many school boards. She mentioned the limited resources in such a small community, but "Albany is very fortunate in the leadership that has made the schools what they are, and (that is) why the

Albany schools have such a fine reputation."

The Albany Education Foundation, she says, is very important in the maintenance and continuing improvement of our schools in hard budgetary times. She speaks of the start of the foundation, and of Sally Outis, who played such a great part in bringing it about.

Going from the school board to the foundation board has become a tradition, she says. In fact, "Sally grabs you."

McNenny says she has learned how other school districts set up their education funds, and that Albany is different in that the foundation is completely independent of the school district.

"Every district does it differently," she says. "Of course the larger districts have more options."

The idea of a foundation has

been in back of many people's minds for a long time, but there was never enough money to fund all of the programs.

"When you are on the school board you realize how very limited the resources are. So much money goes to mandated programs."

She speaks of the ground work Sally Outis did, of the need that has long been there, and of the people who took part in starting the foundation: the parents and non-parents, the business people, people from the Y, the Chamber of Commerce, lawyers and many others, "a very representative cross section of the community."

And she speaks of their mentors, Marge Keck, Jerry Blank and, especially the retired teachers. In its six-and-a-half to seven years of existence, the foundation has given some \$250,000 in grants.

She explains the kinds of grants: mini grants directly to teachers for special projects, creative activities they have always wanted to do but didn't have the resources to do them, including field trips; and special grants that do not fit in any other category.

Usually larger grants, covering larger groups of students, such things as murals on school walls, piano repairs, and things that come up in the middle of the year such as the high school choir having an opportunity to sing at Disneyland, and to take a class at UCLA.

She speaks of several very exciting special grants, saying, "It's wonderful to read these grant applications and see what they want to do with the kids. It is wonderful to give out money, and it is even more wonderful to give out money to kids in the classroom."

Raising money, too, is part of what the foundation does. The majority of the money is in small amounts, \$25 to 50. But somehow, with, of course, some larger donations, they manage to raise some \$50,000 a year. Their sustaining donor program, where the pledge of \$150 a year is automatic, so they know they can count on it, is quite successful, and they get more every year. So much more. So little space. What a wonderful program. And what a great career Dianne McNenny is having in the Albany schools

Thank you, Alan Riffer, for suggesting Dianne McNenny to me. Aren't we blessed to have people like her — and you — in Albany. Please continue to give me your ideas: interesting people, events, etc. Please write to me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706, or call 510-525-4585. My e-mail is crgenser@aol.com

two things in particular have been active, and on the board of this facility: Education and the history of, causes of, assistance for the battered women, and domestic violence.

back to the schools. Dianne McNenny has volunteered in the schools for many years, and has done so most recently with the Albany Education Fund. She and her family have lived here. Daughters and Rosemary, of course, are students in the Albany schools.

McNenny says she was appointed to run for the school board. "In a weak moment I would do it." One of her reasons as a candidate was financial background. She served on the board during the recession, when the board found a way to obtain the necessary funding with mini-grants.

McNenny says it was a great experience in Albany, with its understanding and caring education system, voted parcel tax and bond measure that allowed the schools to

are blessed in Albany," she says. "When you work on a school board with other organizations, you realize the unique Albany really had at that time it was almost impossible to pass taxing and bonding measures."

She is also delighted with the middle school and high school buildings that are only new and running. She likes giving birth to new ideas. "Tearing down the

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BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

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are available in Salinas, San Jose, Redwood City, San Francisco, Oakland, Walnut Creek, San Rafael and Vallejo.

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For complete details on how to apply, visit the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov or call 408-817-6708.

Toys

FROM PAGE A1

program needs toys for newborns and for older children (ages 11 to 12). "Those are our hardest to get donations for," said Woods, who is in his 13th year of working on the holiday program. Firefighters would prefer that gun-related toys not be donated.

The toy giveaway program benefits upwards of 600 families each Christmas.

Food donations needed

Things have got to change soon to prevent that, said Janet Thomas, Richmond police department volunteer.

By this time last year, the 55-gallon toy barrels at the El Cerrito and Richmond fire houses were brimming. Residents were asking where to drop off canned food. And people without time to bring food and toys were writing checks.

"A lot of the people who gave last year are now out of work," said Maureen Williams, of the San Pablo Food Pantry, one of 39 organizations participating in the annual giveaway. "It is going to

be a bad year and I'm really worried."

The problems don't end with giving. When the food and toy donations do start coming in, Thomas needs a place to store them. She needs freezer space for turkeys and a building or room to house and sort toys.

Last year, volunteers had to bag toys outside in the rain. The rush ended with some little boys going home with Barbie dolls, Thomas said.

"We really need help," Williams said. "People forget that Richmond is part of Contra Costa County and that it is a place where many low-income families live."

Thomas urged residents to go through closets and look for toys no longer used, to search through their kitchen cabinets and pull out unused canned goods.

"There are hard times on the West Coast and it's time for people to think about home," Thomas said. "If they don't, I don't know if we can meet this year's need."

In the past few years, the Christmas giveaways in west Contra Costa County were starting to shape up. A data entry system was created to monitor the

hundreds of families who receive food and toys.

Before that, families were collecting at more than one giveaway spot and sometimes there was not enough to go around. To avoid duplication, a clearinghouse was created and cities and organizations can now share information.

"It is so frustrating that we have to worry about these kinds of things and you go over to East and Central County and they have nice computers, big buildings and so much funding," said Williams, who puts in 12-hour work days between Thanksgiving and Christmas. "People forget that Richmond is part of this county and that we really need help."

Thomas will begin her annual food drive Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. in the Booker T. Anderson Community Center gym, 960 South 47th St., Richmond. Donors may drop off pasta, rice, beans or canned goods. Cash donations will be used to buy turkeys.

In addition to providing food for a holiday meal, Thomas likes to give each family a bag that will last until the first of the month.

For more information, call Thomas at 510-620-6632.



Cultural exchange

OCEAN VIEW SCHOOL in Albany was the setting for an exploration of the varied arts and cultures found in the Muslim world, as represented by people of those cultures who live in the area. At the Dec. 1 event included storytelling, geography, math, art and more. Here, Zach and Rami Alexander find countries with large Muslim populations on the map, and Genevieve Salzman and Friel create art inspired by Islamic geometric designs. The event was sponsored by the Muslim and Ocean View PTAs.



Stern

FROM PAGE A1

speaking their own language, Yiddish, which evolved from German in the Middle Ages.

Is religion alone enough to explain this isolation, Stern wonders, adding that he isn't particularly religious. "I'm amazed at how segregated the Jewish communities were in Poland. There was a distinct Yiddish culture. I want to understand what led to this way of life, and what kept it going."

But historical curiosity alone isn't enough to launch a middle-aged man on an educational quest far different than the sidewalk-crack and pothole-liability issues he's been dissecting since graduating from law school at SUNY Buffalo in 1975.

Stern, who will continue to

practice some law while in graduate school, says he's compelled to learn as a way to carry on a culture that's dying.

Millions of Jews died in the Holocaust, and millions more left Europe for Israel, the United States and other nations, breaking from their close-knit communities to save their lives and to find a better life.

As Jews dispersed, fewer and fewer spoke and learned Yiddish. Stern said he sees his mother and father, who spoke Yiddish, as the last of a generation.

"A whole culture, a whole language, a whole literature is in danger of not existing. I feel I owe it to all of my relatives who had that culture to do what I can to first learn about it, and second keep it alive," said Stern, who said he was especially moved last summer by a visit to the National Yiddish

Book Center in Amherst, Mass.

In doing so, he joins scores of scholars on the same quest.

Stern's family fully supports his move, saying it's daring for a man at his age and career level.

"I'm surprised and I'm very proud. Few people have the will to do this kind of thing. He had to reformulate his life for the next stage," said Stern's daughter Jessica, 22, of Berkeley.

Son Robert, 17, says he looks forward to being in college at the same time as his dad, maybe studying some of the same issues.

It will be a little strange, he adds, to watch his dad study for the GRE, or graduate record exam. His father has never been that great in math, which figures heavily on the test, Robert said.

"Me and my sister are going to have to help him."

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Real Estate & Home

Supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairian, The Piedmonter

Friday, December 7, 2001

Section B

Tarpoft & Talbert Fixing up has always been a part of their lives [B3]

Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B7]

In the traditional style in Piedmont



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This charming four plus bedroom, three-bath, two-story Traditional-style home is conveniently located in central Piedmont on a lovely tree-lined street. The current owners have lived in this beautiful home for 30 years.

The desirable central hall plan offers good "flow" from room to room. The layout is conducive to an enjoyable life style including good indoor-outdoor entertaining. A spacious living room with recently refinished hardwood floor, fireplace and crown moldings has

French doors that open out to a private yard. There is a spacious formal dining room plus an ample eating area in the kitchen.

The family room off the kitchen has direct access to the yard. The

See TRADITIONAL, Page B2

Victorian-era royalty reigns in Oakland's vibrant, historic Fruitvale neighborhood



THE SUNBURST ABOVE THE PEDIMENT WITH ITS FISHSCALE SHINGLES AND THE RECESSED WINDOWS let passersby know that this home boasts a distinctive Victorian-era style known as Queen Anne. The fanciful window below left, invites your guests up the stairs to the home's restored attic

■ 1895 Queen Anne-style home lovingly brought into the 21st century

BY DENNIS EVANOSKY

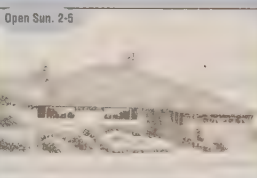
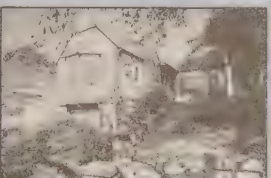
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See VICTORIAN, Page B2

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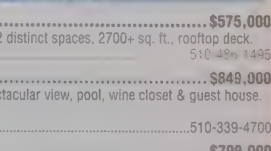
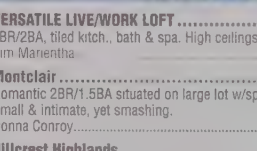
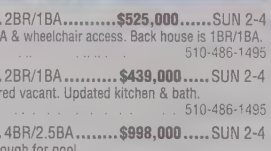
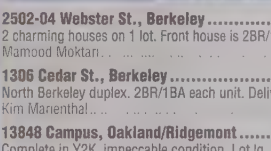


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Tongue-in-groove beamed ceilings in living/dining rooms, 2 fireplaces, random plank & hardwood floors, 2-car garage.
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5037 Pierpoint, J. Miller 4+BR/2.5BA \$539,000 SUN 2-4:30
Sunny, spacious Traditional. Great floor plan, level rear yard, convenient cul-de-sac location close to parks & shopping.
Jeffrey Needleman 510-339-4700

2930 Madeline, Laurel 3BR/2BA \$419,000 SUN 2-4:30
Light-filled Contemporary. Open floor plan, formal dining area, eat-in kitchen, master suite, private deck.
Rachel Baller 510-339-4700

9908 Golf Links 3BR/2BA \$368,000 SUN 2-4:30
Family room, great view of Knowland Park, 2-car garage & gorgeous level yard.
Nader Davari 510-339-4700

2816 Delaware Ct. 2BR/1BA \$200,000 SUN 2-4:30
Starter/fixer plus large workshop, HWF, built-ins, close to shopping districts.
Victor Ratto 510-339-4700

1405 Hollings Avenue, Richmond 2BR/1BA \$240,000 SUN 2-4:30
5K lot, updated bath w/tile everything, newer roof, newer paint in/out, close to 80, 580, San R bridge.
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Oakland 4-Plex \$395,000
Mellow 4-plex on approx. 7500 sq. ft. lot, nice area.

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New conforming loan limits

This time of year is always exciting in the mortgage industry. After all the Thanksgiving holiday has been shared with family and friends, the traditional new conforming loan limits are announced by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

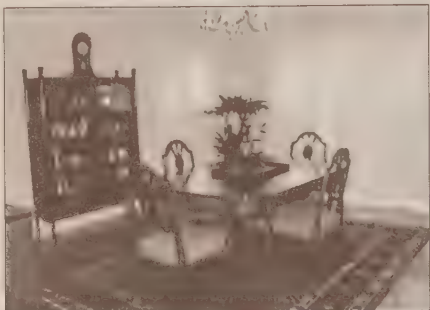
Conforming loan limits affect the purchase and refinancing of one to four family units. Loans that are greater than the conforming limits are considered jumbo loans and carry a higher interest rate, whether it is a 30-, 20-, 15- or 10-year fixed-rate or an adjustable-rate mortgage. The difference between Jumbo and Conforming interest rates can range



KAREN SENZIG
Mortgage Madress

between .375 and .625 percent. In all four categories, the loan limits increased by 9.40 percent, an increase from last year's 8.80 percent increases.

See SENZIG, Page B3



COLDWELL BANKER

A COMFORTABLE DINING ROOM is one of the amenities offered by the Traditional-style home in the heart of Piedmont.

Tradition

FROM PAGE B1

sunny yard with deck and patio is fenced and displays mature landscaping including azaleas, rhododendrons, as well as a Japanese maple, camellias and a majestic Douglas fir tree.

There are four plus bedrooms and two bathrooms upstairs including a large master bedroom suite. The bedrooms are roomy, and they have pretty outlooks. One of the bedrooms is currently used as a home office.

Commuters will appreciate that it's an easy walk to the San Francisco express bus. The home is also close to the center of Piedmont, and minutes from downtown Oakland and the Piedmont Avenue shopping area.

Additional features include: a laundry room; new concrete driveway and walkway; large base-

ment with workbench and ample storage space; attached garage with inside access; security system; automatic sprinklers; recently landscaped front yard; family room roof recently replaced; main roof replaced in 1992; interior and exterior recently painted; earthquake retrofitting. A Coldwell Banker Home Warranty is included.

The listing is being showcased as a Coldwell Banker Previews International listing. The Coldwell Banker Previews program is an exclusive marketing program for upper-tier listings.

This listing is shown by appointment only. Offered at \$1,095,000. Photo tour available at dianhymmer.com

For more information, contact Dian Hymmer, CRS, Broker Associate, Previews Property Specialist, Coldwell Banker, at 510-339-4777.



Victorian

FROM PAGE B1

this three-bedroom, two-bath home built at the turn of the 19th to the 20th century.

The home's cozy restored attic is rivaled by its back yard — letting you relax both indoors and out. A uniquely built patio allows you to enjoy the many trees that dot the home's landscape.

Indeed it is no accident that the homes landscaping matches that of the surrounding district.

According to neighbor and local attorney Michael J. Kinane, the fruit trees that flourish here gave the district the distinctive name "Fruit Vale."

When the home at 1836 33rd Ave. was built, Fruit Vale served as Oakland's second downtown.

"These were not tract homes," Kinane said. "Rather they were built one home at a time."

A sharp eye can appreciate this. Looking at the other Queen Anne-style homes on the nearby

streets, one can see each bears unique details, like the sunburst and the fishscale shingles on the home at 1836 33rd Ave.

Less than 10 years after the home's appearance on what was then known as King Street, the Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire struck the Bay Area and transformed this semi-rural area forever.

Over the years the area's diversity gave Fruitvale an almost international flavor. African-Americans mingled with the German population in the 1940s and '50s. The district began to take on a Latino flavor in the late '60s, which it retains to this day.

According to Kinane, who has served as president of the Fruitvale Merchant's Association and has run for mayor, the district is experiencing an influx of Asians — something that began in the 1990s.

Kinane points to all the neighborhood activities that have improved the quality of life in Fruitvale: the California Main Street Program, Fruitvale Plaza Park, the



THE QUEEN ANNE-STYLE HOME ON 33RD AVENUE IN OAKLAND'S FRUITVALE DISTRICT offers two great reasons to live the outside world in one home. Stay indoors, left, in the home's cozy restored attic or relax outdoors, above, on a private patio beneath a redwood tree and an oak tree.

celebration of Dia de los Muertos and Las Bougainvilles senior facility to name a few.

"Many institutions that make a difference in all our lives and add to the quality of life not just in Fruitvale, but further afield make their homes here," Kinane said

He pointed to St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, Patton and Mercy Retirement Home, Spanish Speaking Union and more.

To learn more about the home offered at \$325,000, contact Adrienne Nash at Piedmont Realty 510-763-4326.

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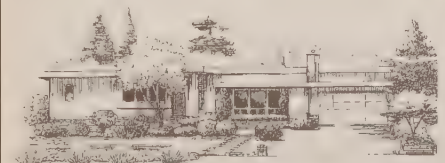
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PANORAMIC WAY. 2 LOTS. These lots are located side by side in a beautiful wooded area with a great view of the San Francisco Bay Area. Priced at \$45,000. Kathy Ghisell, 510-522-6425.

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OPEN SUNDAY 2-4. 2215 SEA SHELL DR. MARINA BAY Spacious 3 bedroom, 3 bath condo at Marina Bay with hardwood floors, new paint, \$355,000. Michael Studebaker, 510-748-1129.

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CASTRO VALLEY

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18313 PEPPER ST. ON QUIET CUL-DE-SAC. Great family home with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths in quiet neighborhood. Family room, hobby room, enclosed yard. Patio with big deck. \$475,000. Stan Lockhart, 510-748-1805.

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555 PIERCE ST. #320. VIEW OF BAY & HILL FROM THIS CORNER UNIT. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, new floor. \$240,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620.

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320 TAHOES RD. GREAT FLOOR PLAN! All 3 bedrooms on main level, large family room, full bath & plus room at lower level. 3 car garage & close to freeway access. \$648,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620.

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Fixing up has always been a pleasure

384 in a series of true real estate fixes. When we were little girls, my sister and I talked about "fixing up" a house for ourselves. A small, one-story house was what we had in mind; at least, that's the image I have still. Our parents would have had double windows and a wood floor. We would sweep. We would wash windows, hang bright curtains, and make it "all nice."

I don't know where this vision came from, but it persisted. When my sister and I were young, she and I rented a tiny cottage. We waited for it to be the playhouse we were. With great effort, we scrubbed and painted, hung curtains, and put bouquets and bouquets inside.

We never stopped. As each of us moved to different houses, we brought many pleasure-filled hours. We pored over magazines for ideas and ideas. We waited for it to be the playhouse we were. With great effort, we scrubbed and painted, hung curtains, and put bouquets and bouquets inside.

My sister and I, also my husband and I, plus various friends had many parties over the years. Times when we gathered together after work and on weekends to paint our various rentals until late at night — walls and ceilings, of course, but also the insides of kitchen cupboards and clothes closets. When in surprising colors.

As we earned more and bought our own houses, we were able to replace old light fixtures, old paneled doors, and to appealingly salvage cabinets. In one house, I placed a discarded kitchen cabinet, painted sunshine yellow, as a dining room sideboard. My friends found it queer, but I liked it. I was discovering that in addition to painting and pretty, I like "wake-up" the use of things that were people stop and ask.

For other houses I was able to buy and build in a big glass-fronted cabinet formerly used in a school teacher's supplies, a very large door cupboard that had once been part of a butler's pantry, and a small sorter with dozens of small cubbies. This last was hung above the kitchen counter to store dishes and glasses.

The counter in that kitchen was a single piece of honey-colored wood. We had a friend who slabbled it in Mendocino. I think we paid \$50 for it, had it cut for a sink at the end, and then finished it with oil.

We chipped the linoleum off the floor, a tedious job, and found fir sub-wood underneath which we floor people look good sanded. Floor people told us no; it wouldn't look right. The floor was softwood and was intended to be covered. But we added, even offering to pay in addition for the sanding, and it turned out beautifully. The dark spots, small beetle holes and such added, we thought, to its overall charm.

We stripped paint off of staircases and newel posts, windows and doors, spent weeks trying every way to get the paint off: chemicals, sand and nut picks, a high-intensity lamp, and eventually, a hot air gun — my husband's excellent one. When I wrote a letter to the "Dear House Journal" (at the time, a newsletter) extolling the wonders of hot air gun stripping, the publisher thanked us, gave us a free subscription, and began selling air guns by mail order to his readers.

Once I bought a rather eccentric and shabby brown shingle house, the rooms laid out seemingly at random. The largest room was the kitchen — the room used for all waking hours. There was a good sized pantry with a window, a sideboard wainscoting halfway up the walls, and a wooden floor. The painter who came with the house was leaving and it seemed the time to make improvements.

I couldn't afford to leave the house vacant for long and I had very little money available. This fix had to be quick and cheap. I got help from dear friends, a new kitchen counter was planned to fill the long wall. It was to be made of redwood, to stand on 2

x 4 legs and to hold an inexpensive stainless steel sink. Before the renter moved, we bought the materials and assembled the parts, chose and bought paint.

The minute the house was empty, we rushed in, put the counter and sink in place, added plastic bins for drawers, and painted fast. The beadwork and pantry walls were painted orange (very "in" then), the upper walls and ceiling white.

We were so organized that we did the whole house in about a week. It would have gone faster except that the orange paint turned out to be translucent, requiring three coats and, especially on the pantry shelves and drawers, it took "forever" to apply.

That was a most satisfying project; the house looked wonderful. A gathered blue skirt was added to the front of the open redwood counters in the orange and white kitchen. There was an old cream and green Spark stove on legs and a Tiffany-type green leaded glass light fixture overhead.

This was in the days when it was possible to buy a house with a few thousand dollars, and I suppose I might have become rich from it. But I rented the house for \$235 a month, later selling it for a modest profit. I didn't know, nor did anyone I guess, where the market was going to go.

I don't think I was in it for money anyway. Each house that I have worked on has taught me things about the next. That's what I wanted — and such good things! Workmen and reading and looking at houses for sale have made me aware of an amazing array of available materials in hardware stores and lumber yards and ways to use them. I love knowing and am always on the lookout for others.

Anet Tarpo and Pat Talbert are

licensed real estate agents who specialize in single-family houses. They also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. E-mail them at patanet@lmi.net or call 510-653-2050.



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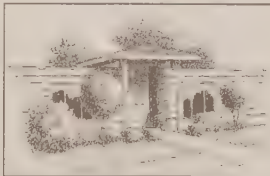
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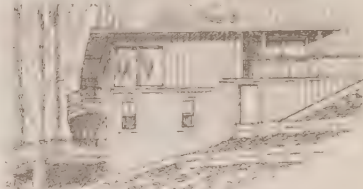
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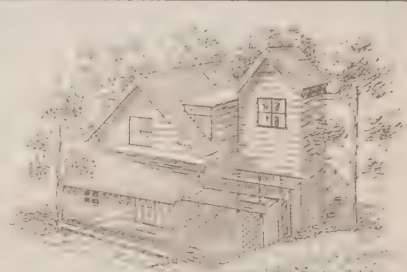


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330 Vernon Street #103, Oakland

BACK ON THE MARKET! Lovely Adams Point Condo

Open Sunday 2-4. Spacious, bright, and generous two bedroom, two bathroom condo in one of Adams Point's most salubrious buildings. Amenities include private walled patio, swimming pool and excellent building security

\$269,000



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www.warwickmay.com

Northbrae

The 9th Annual

Women's Daytime Drop-In Center

Benefit Art Show & Sale

This Weekend

Fabulous Gifts!

This Weekend

- ◆ Amazing Raku Ceramics ◆
- ◆ Beautiful Hardwood Kitchen Accessories ◆
- ◆ Stunning & Unique Photographs ◆
- ◆ A Grand Assortment of Hand Made Jewelry ◆
- ◆ Historic Berkeley Key Route Gift Cards ◆
- ◆ Colorful Tableware From South Africa ◆
- ◆ Unique Native Crafts From The Philippines ◆

Hosted by Northbrae Properties for the 9th Consecutive Year!

Saturday & Sunday 12/8 & 12/9
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Remember to support your local charities this year!

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!
NORTHBRAE PROPERTIES • 526.4336
1600 Hopkins St., Berkeley 94707

Senzig

PAGE B2

Single-family home loan insured from \$275,000 to \$300,700. Top ex went from \$351,950 to \$349,900. Triplex units went from \$264,400 to \$465,200 and fourplex units went from \$528,700 to \$723,150.

Most lenders are allowing the insured loan amounts effective immediately. And, if the analysts are correct, we could be looking at the continuation of the lowest interest rates in the last 40 years. Now that would be a holiday gift well worth celebrating.

Senzig is co-owner of the Mortgage with her husband, Scott. She can be reached at 510-339-3811, fax 510-339-3814, e-mail Senzig@aol.com. Please contact her with any mortgage questions or topics for discussion.

A look around the real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

ATTENTION PUBLIC

Handy Classes

The Building Education Center in Berkeley provides ongoing classes, lectures and events for the experienced and those new to remodeling and renovation. There are evening classes on weekdays and daytime classes on the weekends. "Interior Plastering" is a hands-on workshop on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The "Solar Electricity for Your Home" seminar is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Join the "Ceramic Tile Installation" workshop on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 15 and 16. For more information on classes and costs call the center. Contact Sydney at 510-525-7610 or visit the Web site at blgeducator.org.

Real Estate Careers

Have you ever wondered about a career in real estate? Want to know what it takes? What type of schooling is involved? How do I prepare for the exam? The answers to your questions are available through the Noble Fields School of Real Estate. For more information call the Oakland office at 510-451-7977 or the main office, in San Francisco at 415-956-6169.

Home Buying 101

Attend a free first time home-buyer's workshop. Senior Loan

Consultant Stan Johnson of First Security Loans presents ongoing seminars for those interested in learning the ins and outs of home-buying. A variety of topics are covered, including how to buy for no money down. To register for a future seminar call 510-614-2433.

See REID, Page B8



BOBBIE REID
Credit Worthy



4027 Rusting Avenue - Oakland

Romantic Wanted!

Charming "Cape Cod" in immaculate condition. Beautifully landscaped garden, gleaming hardwood floors, huge family room with fireplace, 2 car garage and separate Artist's Attic.

3+ BR, 2.5 BA. Call Fritz for a private showing!
4027 Rusting Avenue - Oakland
Offered at \$399,000
Fritz Hochfellner

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Let's List Your Home
in 2002!

1836 33rd Avenue

Open Sunday, Dec. 9th

\$325,000

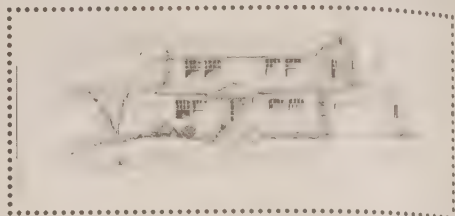
Gorgeous Victorian
Fruitvale District
Walk to BART



Adrianne Nash, CRS
Oakland Native, Oakland/Berkeley Specialist
510-763-4060

- * Warm & Inviting, 3+ bedroom 2 bath Victorian home
- * Beautifully maintained: newer roof, furnace, plumbing
- * Huge and wonderful gardens on large level lot
- * Most original architectural features intact
- * Special, well loved, friendly & peaceful street

Visual Tour & Full MLS
www.homesbynash.com



Home For the Holidays

650 Hillgirt Circle, Haddon Hill
\$525,000

- 4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms
- Formal Living Room/Crown Molding
- Formal Dining Room/Built-ins
- Beautiful Marble Fireplace
- Formal Entry
- Vintage Kitchen/New Gas Range
- Deck off Living Room
- Hardwood Floors Throughout

- French Doors leading to Deck
- Original Architectural Details
- Breakfast Nook, Separate
- Upgraded Electrical
- 1 Car Attached Garage
- Security System
- Large Yard
- Automatic Sprinklers



Mary Smartt, Realtor Email: msmartt@jps.net
lawton associates (510) 547-5970

For an Online Tour www.650Hillgirt.com



New Construction! \$1,995,000
Beautiful home with wonderful views. Approx. 5200 sqft., 4 large bedrooms, 4 full baths & 2 half baths. Gourmet kitchen w/ top-of-the-line appliances, hardwood floors, bonus room. Very open and light. You must see this home!
Bonnie Freitas (925) 997-9062



New, Serenity w/Bay View \$995,000
Gracious, quiet, close-in neighborhood. Built to last both physically and aesthetically. Timeless, clean simplicity w/fabulous color palette. 4+ BD/4.5 BA, plus separate suite w/private entrance. Stainless, granite, hardwood, etc.
D.C. Hodges (510) 339-8900 x223



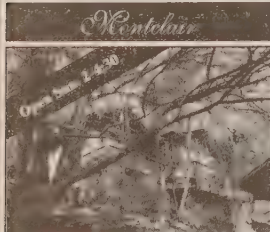
Crocker Highlands - New Listing \$619,000
Very charming 4 BD, 2 BA Traditional Home at Piedmont Border. Gracious Living Room, Formal Dining Room, Family Style kitchen plus peek of the Bay views make this an Exceptional Home.
Carol & Dana Cohen (510) 339-8900 x225 or x248



Classic Elegance \$599,000
Gorgeous 4 bedroom, 2 bath condo in Fabulous 1920's Mediterranean Villa. Formal dining, den, deck, updated kitchen and baths. Hardwood floors, fireplace - 2,793 sq. ft. of luxury!
Vicky Friedman (510) 339-8900 x261



Rockridge Charming \$535,000
Understated elegance in this Rockridge Gemwood mouldings & trim, leaded glass built-in, HDW floors. Lg. Master bed, playful yd., garage, dog run & more!
Bart & College Ave.
Miriam Wilson (510) 339-8900 x48



3 Bed 2 Bath w/ Detached Cottage \$519,000
Close-in Montclair location. Walk to transportation, restaurants and shopping.
Sue Williams (510) 409-6796



Montclair Traditional \$499,000
Enjoy life in this warm, fresh all level home with splendid outdoor living, 3 BD, 1 BA, large public rooms. Harmonious professionally designed landscaping. Walk to Montclair Village and express busline.
Helen Nicholas (510) 339-8900 x238



Two Cottages On One Lot! \$449,000
Enjoy two adorable cottages on one lot. Each with one bedroom & one bath. Level yard perfect for garden/play. Excellent location!
Peter Fletcher (510) 521-1177



Rare Heron Model! \$379,000
At Baywood Village in Harbor Bay Isle. Many, many upgrades and a remodel, make this unusual 2 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom townhome a must see!
Peter Fletcher (510) 521-1177



Invest In Real Estate, Just Listed \$219,000
Opportunity knocks and those who answer maybe surprised at the results. 1 BDRM 1 BA Duplex plus 2 studios for sale at \$219,000. Call Today!
Cindy Boze (510) 339-8900 x121

Danville

Magnificent New Custom! \$1,699,000
At the foot of Mt. Diablo! Stunning views & state of the art craftsmanship. Maple hardwood floors w/cherry inlay. Elegant crown moulding, slab marble & granite counters.

Jerry & Gabriela (925) 314-1500

Emeryville

Open SUN 2-4pm
New Listing! \$259,000
Enjoy sunset walks along SF Bayfront. Executive 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo in Watergate. Totally upgraded & club amenities! Short commute to SF/Oakland.
E'lynn Allen (925) 778-9101

Piedmont

Classic Brown Shingle \$1,025,000
Stunning 1909 Craftsman style home, box-beamed ceilings, wainscoting in dining room. 4 BD/2.5 BA. Remodeled kitchen, family room.
Mary Hanna (510) 339-8900 x253

Oakland/Lake Merritt

Open SUN 2-4:30pm
Be At Home On New Years! \$265,000
Big price reduction. 2 BD, 2 BA Condo on Lake Merritt. Quiet, Secure Building. New Carpet, New Vinyl. Close to BART, AC Transit and Chinatown. Large Patio for Entertaining.
Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900 x230

Alameda

Lovely Townhome In Bay Farm Island! \$359,000
Near best schools, shopping & transportation.
Peter Fletcher (510) 521-1177

Orinda

Views From Every Room! \$839,000
Enjoy a very private setting in this 3 bedroom, 3 bath home. Master suite w/private deck, hardwood floors, spa, on a 1/2 acre at the end of a cul-de-sac, & perfect for outdoor entertaining.
Randy Churchill (925) 975-4360

Walnut Creek

Bright & Spacious! \$679,000
Featuring 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, family w/rock fireplace, kitchen w/custom features, new carpet & paint, deck, spa & solar heated pool.
Velda Arnold (925) 975-4367



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3249 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette, (925) 935-9100
185 Railroad Avenue, Danville, (925) 314-1500
1983 Second Street, Livermore (925) 455-0505
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Oakland

\$198,000 3W Embarcadero 227. Quant
super private unit on second floor with
carport parking. One bedroom with
double doors. Walk to Jack London
waterfront. Next to channel "2" Donnaluc
510-814-4826

\$195,000 1317 Center St. Large
7 bedroom, 3 bath, 2ba
family room, finished
basement, great location. Kathy
510-814-4826

\$225,000 930 Pine St. Perfect for
live/work! Approx 1400 sq. ft. 14' ceiling
skylites, & roll up door. Needs work!
Good location. Kathy 510-814-4706

\$358,000 8048 Greenly Dr. Single level
2 bd, 1ba bungalow! Large eat in kitchen
and family room. Large deck and in-
ground pool in private yard. Donnaluc
510-814-4826

\$629,000 2015 H... View of
Bay and...
popular...
large deep backyard. Russ 510-814-4715

\$299,000 14406 Seagate Dr. Lovely
townhome with marble entry 2bd, 2.5ba,
all appliances included, wet bar in
sunken living room. Pato near stream
Tere 510-814-4840

\$299,000 42 Dutton Ave., Completely
upgraded single level 2 bedroom, 1 bath,
bungalow! New paint inside and out. New
roof, heater, water heater, carpets,
washer, dryer, and garage. Detached
garage and new fences. Tom 510-814-4841

\$329,000 14248 Outrigger Dr. Beautiful
tile floors in kitchen & bathrooms, 3bd,
2.5ba, patio and 2 one-car garages. Near
golf course/tennis courts, pool & spa
Tere 510-814-4840

\$340,000 14265 Seagate Dr. 3bd, 2ba
owners' suite, fireplace, hardwood floors,
upstairs, great location. Kathy 510-814-4826

\$439,888 16615 Rolando Ave. OPEN
SUN 2-4! Panoramic View of City and Bay
Spacious living room with full 180 degree
view! 4-bd, 2.5ba. Attached 2-car garage
Nina 510-814-4836

\$455,000 1491 Oriole Ave. 3bd, 2ba
income! Lookups! 1st floor
duplexes, great location, near
shopping. Kathy 510-814-4826

Hayward

\$299,900 20 Trestle Dr. French country
charm-large 3+bd, 2ba, 1 unit!
Remodeled kitchen, dining room,
main level, great location, attached garage
Margaret 510-814-4829

Orinda

\$99,000 El Toyonal, Rawland - Initial plans
for a 3bd, 2ba home have been preliminary
designed. Lot is approx. 75 acres, wooded
with views. Steep up-slope in established
neighborhood. Russ 510-814-4715

El Cerrito

\$595,000 5490 Barrel Avenue, ST
OPEN SUN 2-4! Colonial 4+ bedroom, 2.5
bath home with master bedroom with
dressing area and fireplace, study with built-
ins, plus an office or den, upstairs, formal
dining room, 2-car garage and large yard with
gazebo & fruit trees. Close to transportation
Dense 510-814-4871

Open Sunday December 9th

2:00 - 4:30 PM

Unique and interesting home in Piedmont



38 Portsmouth Road, Piedmont

This two+ bedroom / 2 bathroom Mission Revival style home is both unique and
interesting with classic details. A charming garden cottage is also included with
this property. Walk to nearby Wildwood Elementary School.

Offered at \$649,000



Prudential

Julie Lehman & Barry Klein
342 Highland Ave., Piedmont, CA 94611

Voicemail: 510-986-9556

Voicemail: 510-869-5943

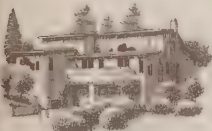
Office: 510-428-0900

Open Sunday

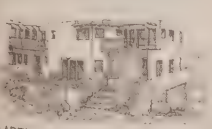
CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,875,000
614 BUCKINGHAM (Open 2-4:30)
5+BR/4.5BA. Splendid new home
w/piano SF & GG views. Gourmet kit/fam
rm. Luxury master suite. Approx. 1/2 acre.
Nancy Noman x373



CLAREMONT \$1,575,000
614 ALVARADO RD. (Open 2-4)
Custom built re-creation of the original 1922
Colonial home. Exceptional quality &
detailing. 4BR/3BA, 4 fp. SF & GG views, 2
garages. Leslie Easterday x363



CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,500,000
7070 NORFOLK RD. (Open 2-4:30)
Spectacular 5BR/4.5BA w/great views.
Separate office or guest suite. 4-car tandem
garage. Private patio. Francis Heath x357



CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,250,000
7133 NORFOLK RD. (Open 2-4)
Sunning 1 year old contemporary w/4BR/
4.5BA. Unique design, great light. Master
suite w/fireplace, lush canyon & bay views.
Dee Knowland x318



CLAREMONT PINES \$950,000
5130 MOUNTAIN BLVD. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Spacious 1970's ranch w/bay
views & level yard. 3BR/3BA, formal dining
room & family room. Jeffrey Himmel x307

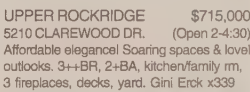
PACIFIC UNION

510.339.6460
www.pacunion.com

Open Sunday



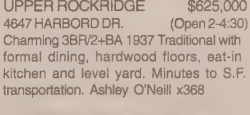
MONTCLAIR \$734,000
6097 COLTON BLVD. (Open 2-4:30)
Level-in 4BR/3BA home w/SF, Bay & can-
yon views. Flexible floor plan, updated kit
& hardwood flrs. Prime location near the
Village & freeways. Kathy Flynn x317



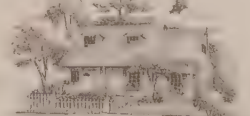
UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$715,000
5210 CLAREWOOD DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Affordable elegance! Soaring spaces & lovely
outlooks. 3+BR, 2+BA, kitchen/family rm,
3 fireplaces, decks, yard. Gini Erick x339



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$625,000
4647 HARBORD DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Charming 3BR/2+BA 1937 Traditional with
formal dining, hardwood floors, eat-in
kitchen and level yard. Minutes to S.F.
transportation. Ashley O'Neill x368

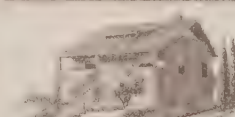


UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$625,000
4647 HARBORD DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Charming 3BR/2+BA 1937 Traditional with
formal dining, hardwood floors, eat-in
kitchen and level yard. Minutes to S.F.
transportation. Ashley O'Neill x368

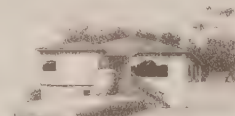


LEONA HEIGHTS \$439,000
5130 MOUNTAIN BLVD. (Open 2-4:30)
Charming 2-story home in a lovely wooded
setting studded w/maple trees. 3BR/2BA,
hardwood flrs, plus rm w/DSL & updated tile
kitchen. Joan Hause x358

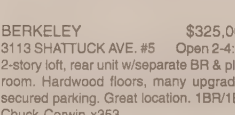
Open Sunday



LAUREL DISTRICT \$379,000
3647-49 LAUREL AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Charming 1912 home with 1BR/1BA
unit. Legal duplex. Two small "plus"
rooms on 2nd story of house. Wrap-
around yard. Ann Nichols x319



LAUREL DISTRICT \$339,000
4752 FAIR AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
New listing! Bright, open traditional w/
2BR/1BA, formal dining & hardwood
floors. Updated kitchen & bath. Move in
for the Holidays! Vicki Woodhead x334.



BERKELEY \$325,000
3113 SHATTUCK AVE. #5 (Open 2-4:30)
2-story loft, rear unit w/separate BR & plus
room. Hardwood floors, many upgrades,
secured parking. Great location. 1BR/1BA.
Chuck Corwin x353

By Appointment

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$2,200,000
Exquisite new custom built Mediterranean
villa. Elevator, 4-car garage, views, terraces.
Total quality & beauty. 5100+/- sf. 5BR/
4.5BA. Dee Knowland x318

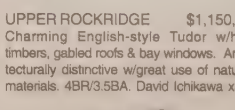
By Appointment



RIDGEMONT \$1,550,000
Magnificent new 5BR/4.5BA designed by
Phillip Perkins. Large, elegant spaces around
a central courtyard. Dramatic living rm,
canyon views, gourmet kit & luxurious
master. David Ichikawa x331



PIEDMONT \$1,495,000
Stately Mediterranean w/ich architectural
detail. 5BR/3+BA, formal dining, den &
rumpus room. Beautiful gardens. Georgia
Cornell x325



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,150,000
Charming English-style Tudor w/half
timbers, gabled roofs & bay windows. Archi-
tecturally distinctive w/great use of natural
materials. 4BR/3.5BA. David Ichikawa x331

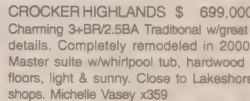


UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$900,000
Sharp & stylish 1997 Mediterranean with
great Bay views. 4+BR/3BA, formal dining,
master suite with fireplace, terrace. Best value
in Upper Rockridge! LEASE OPTION
WELCOME. Dee Knowland x318

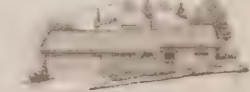
By Appointment



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$895,000
Terrific 6 year old 5BR/3.5BA. Light & airy
loaded w/style. Easy living. Level-in, yard.
Dee Knowland x318



CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$ 699,000
Charming 3+BR/2.5BA Traditional w/great
details. Completely remodeled in 2000.
Master suite w/whirlpool tub, hardwood
floors, light & sunny. Close to Lakeshore
shops. Michelle Vasey x359



PIEDMONT \$675,000
Great views, great location, great opportu-
nity! Great ideas could turn this home into
a gem. 5BR/2BA, dining area, deck, 2-car
garage. Sandi Klemmer x314



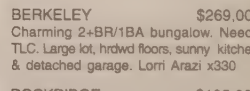
CLAREMONT HILLS LOT \$630,000
SF & Bay view lot framed by large greenbelt
canyon. Private road serves 4 luxury homes.
Soils report, survey & architectural blueprints
included. David Ichikawa x331



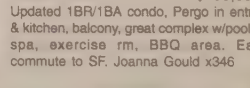
BERKELEY \$599,000
Stylishly remodeled 4BR/2BA Bungalow w/
separate 2 room studio & bath. Large pri-
vate garden. Light filled & inviting rooms
w/great details. Leslie Avant x341



LAKE MERRITT \$485,000
New Listing! Wonderful townhouse units.
Large rooms. 2+Bedrooms. Garages. Ideal
for owner users. Jack McPhail x300



BERKELEY \$269,000
Charming 2+BR/1BA bungalow. Needs
TLC. Large lot, hrdwd floors, sunny kitchen
& detached garage. Lorri Arazi x330



ROCKRIDGE \$195,000
Updated 1BR/1BA condo, Pergo in entry
& kitchen, balcony, great complex w/pool,
spa, exercise rm, BBQ area. Easy
commute to SF. Joanna Gould x346

WEEKEND OPEN HOMES

Open Saturday and Sunday

ALAMEDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
14000 Alameda Harbor Bay Realty	480/2.5BA	2-4	\$788,000
14000 Alameda Harbor Bay Realty	380/2.5BA	2-4	\$688,000
14000 Alameda Harbor Bay Realty	480/2.5BA	Sat. 1-3 Sun. 2-4	

ALBANY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2000 Central Ave #1 Open SATURDAY & SUNDAY Alameda Realty, Barbara K. 510-819-9811	2bd/1ba	2-4	\$248,500
1718 Main Open Sunday Janice Payne 510-814-4848 Harbor Bay Realty	280/1BA	2-4	\$228,000

BERKELEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1513 Albany Terrace Kathy Cline, Prudential, 510-869-2607	3bd/1.5 Sun 2-4		\$398,000

EMERYVILLE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5953 Manchester Bobo McLean, Prudential, 510-852-2133	5 - Alameda 2-430		\$1,950,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
822 Mendocino Helen Banks, Templeton/Lavett Company, 510-852-2133	5bd/4.5Sun 2-430		\$1,250,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
775 Alvarado Road Patti Carras, 925-258-1111 C208, Alain Pirel Realtors	480/2.5BA Sun 1-4		\$995,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2700 Dana St Bobo McLean, Templeton/Lavett Company, 510-852-2133	4bd/2.5BA Sun 2-430		\$750,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
355 Arlington Ave The Grubb Co	380/2BA Sun 2-430		\$825,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1302 44 Oxford RED OAK, 510-280-2135, Emma	4bd/2.5BA Sun 2-430		\$468,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1030 Delaware St, Unit A Helen Banks, Better Homes, Mary Jane McConville (510) 339-9400	380/2BA Sun 2-430		\$375,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2805 Stanton St Barbara Hopper, Prudential, 510-845-0211	2bd/2ba Sun 1-4		\$332,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3113 Shattuck Ave #5 Pacific Union, Chuck Carwin (510) 339-6469 J353	2 Story Loft 2-430		\$325,000

CASTRO VALLEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
16725 Selby Dr Open Saturday Galagher & Lindsey, Stan Lockhart 510-748-1806	3bd/2ba 2-4		\$410,000

CONCORD

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
907-914 Estrella Ct Sandy Chiu, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	3 - 3 - Sun 1-455/3.995 to 5560K		

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1016 Lila Del Ct Craig Shaw, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	3bd/2ba Sun 1-4		\$475,000

EL CERRITO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5490 Barrett Ave Open Sunday Denise Savino 510-814-4871 Harbor Bay Realty	4 - 80 2.5BA 2-4		\$595,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2801 158A Harbor Bay Realty	280/1BA	2-4	\$369,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5461 Carriage Dr. Alain Pirel Realtors, Ed Amant 925-743-3335 J225	4 bd/3 ba 1-4Open Sun		\$478,000

EL SOBRANTE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5133 Girvin Dr. D.C. Hodges, 510-331-7557, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	4bd/4.5ba 2-430		\$895,000



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The Journal & The Alameda Journal
Call 748-1688 or FAX 748-1679

KENSINGTON

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
4 Admiral Dr. Bldg. B Open Sun, Flynn Allen 925-708-8101 Century 21 Heritage R.E.	4bd/4ba 1-4		\$250,000

LAFAYETTE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
835 Sibert Ct Wells & Bennett Realtors, Doris Tabloff (925) 943-1187	480/2BA Sun 2-430		\$975,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6809 Buckingham Blvd Pacific Union, Nancy Roman (510) 339-6480 J373	580/4.5BA 2-430		\$1,875,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
614 Alvarado Rd Claremont Hills Pacific Union, Leslie Eastday (510) 339-6480 J363	480/2BA 2-4		\$1,575,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
7070 Norfolk Rd Claremont Hills Pacific Union, Francis Heath (510) 339-6480 J367	580/4.5BA 2-430		\$1,500,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1850 Grand View Dr. Ziggy Baranowski, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	4bd/4.5Sun 1-430		\$1,250,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
7133 Norfolk Rd Claremont Hills Pacific Union, Dee Knowland (510) 339-6480 J318	480/4.5BA 2-430		\$1,250,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1845 Northwood Ct (Montclair) Mary Neuberger	380/2BA Sun 2-430		\$1,195,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
50 Elrod David Otero, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	5bd/3 - Sun 2-430		\$996,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6153 Girvin Dr. D.C. Hodges, 510-331-7557, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	4bd/4.5ba 2-430		\$895,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
34 Villanova Ln Caldwell Banker, Mahaz Judson (510) 339-4700	480/3.1BA Sun 1-5		\$885,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1 Beechwood Dr Sandy Chiu, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	4bd/3 - Sun 2-430		\$980,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
60 Pine Hills Ct (Montclair) David Hennigan	480/2BA Sun 2-430		\$875,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6677 Sobrante Rd Montclair Wells & Bennett Realtors	1 - 3/1BA Sun 2-430		\$795,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6039 Glenarm Montclair Caldwell Banker, Ellen 510-339-4700	5bd/3ba Sun 2-5		\$799,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6057 Cotton Blvd Montclair Pacific Union, Kathy Flynn (510) 339-6480 J317	480/3BA 2-430		\$734,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
7026 Thornhill Dr Montclair The Grubb Co, Charlie Curliano 510-339-9400	380/2BA Sun 2-430		\$680,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
50 Sheridan Road Rockridge Caldwell Banker, Nancy B. 510-339-4700	3bd/2ba Sun 2-430		\$880,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6580 Estates Montclair Caldwell Banker, Becky/Kathy 510-339-4700	4 - 6bd/3ba Sun 2-430		\$675,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3005 Holywood Dr Piedmont Pines The Grubb Co, Michelle Winchester 510-339-9400	380/2BA Sun 2-430		\$648,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
35 Windward Hill Hilltop Piedmont Pines, Open Sun	380/2BA Sun 2-430		\$635,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
821 Treble Glen Craig Shaw, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	1 - 1.5BA Sun 2-430		\$625,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
4647 Harbor Dr Upper Rockridge Pacific Union, Ashley O'Neill (510) 339-6480 J368	380/2BA 2-430		\$625,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1125 Portal Ave Cricker Highlands Open Sat. Cord & Steve Cohen, 510-339-9800, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	4bd/2ba 1-20-430		\$618,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3340 Harrison Bl. Prudential, Open Sun. Vicky Friedman, 510-506-4698, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	4 - 1bd/2ba 2-430		\$598,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5444 Manila Rockridge Better Homes, Caroline Patis (510) 339-8400	380/2BA Sun 2-430		\$595,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
650 Hilgert Cir Madison Hill Lawton Associates, Mary Smart (510) 347-5870	480/2BA 1-430		\$595,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3144 Claremont Ave Herman Lusa, Prudential, 510-464-1354	4bd/2ba Sun 2-5		\$588,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5809 Amy Dr Gene Boomer, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	4bd/2ba Sun 2-430		\$588,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
137 Colgate Dr Mark Hata, Prudential, 510-334-2010	4bd/2ba Sun 2-430		\$548,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
7128 Saroni Dr Rockridge The Grubb Co, Steve Michalides 510-339-9400	480/2BA Sun 2-430		\$548,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5037 Pierpoint Montclair Caldwell Banker, Darcy Dancow 510-339-4700	480/2BA Sun 2-430		\$538,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5218 Golden Gate Upper Rockridge The Grubb Co, Carolyn Jones 510-339-9400	280/1BA Sun 2-430		\$518,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
8970 Broadway Ter- rock Montclair, Open Sun. Helen Nicholas, 510-339-9800, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	3bd/1ba 2-430		\$488,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5227 Chabotly Ter Rockridge The Grubb Co, Maria Delacruz 510-339-9400	380/1BA Sun 2-430		\$468,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3634 Randolph Ave Berkeley The Grubb Co, Angela Wei 510-339-9400	380/2BA Sun 2-430		\$478,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
335 Hanover Ave Claremont Hills Better Homes, Teresa Chan (510) 339-4800	380/2BA Sun 2-430		\$478,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1100 Mountain Blvd. Montclair Better Homes, Jennifer Arthur (510) 339-8400	380/2BA Sun 2-430		\$458,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
371 Hudson Rockridge Better Homes, Jennie Upcott (510) 339-4000	380/1.5BA Sun 2-430		\$448,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5130 Mountain Blvd Laurel Heights Pacific Union, Jean Hesse (510) 339-6460 J358	380/2BA 2-430		\$438,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2930 Madeline Laurel Caldwell Banker, Rachel Bailor (510) 339-4700	380/2.1BA Sun 2-430		\$419,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6607 Skyline Blvd Rosedale Rosalee Marshall, Prudential, 510-655-9185	2bd/1.5Sun 2-430		\$399,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3547-49 Laurel Ave Laurel District Pacific Union, Ann Nichols (510) 339-6460 J318	180/1BA 2-430		\$379,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
9908 Golf Links Caldwell Banker Wade Drazak (510) 339-4700	380/1BA Sun 2-430		\$368,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3468 Wyman Adams Point Wells & Bennett Realtors, Kate Phillips (510) 331-7000 J223	480/2BA Sun 2-430		\$365,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
251 Conington St Shuford Village Bay Group, Carolyn R. Mettelmann 800-400-6869	380/1BA Sun 2-430		\$367,500

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3021 Texas St Nancy Fox, Thornhill Properties, 510-648-1950 J235	2 - 7ba Sun 2-4		\$349,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3024 Modesto Ave Mazard Park Wells & Bennett Realtors, Kate Phillips (510) 331-7000 J223	380/1BA Sun 2-430		\$338,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
4752 Fair Ave Sunnyvale Pacific Union, Vicki Woodhead (510) 338-4440 J234	280/1BA 2-430		\$338,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
200 Caldecott Ln # 113 Nemacross The Grubb Co, Carolyn Jones 510-339-8400	280/2BA Sun 2-430		\$338,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
4601 Manila Ave Lisa Friedman, Prudential, 510-845-0211	280/1ba Sun 2-5		\$338,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1836 33rd Ave Adrienne Nash, Prudential, 510-845-0211	1 - 7ba Sun 2-5		\$325,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
303 Adams Unit # 404 James West Wells & Bennett, Patsy Bohler (510) 331-7000 J238	280/2BA Sun 2-430		\$307,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
7028 Homewood Dr Montclair Caldwell Banker, Victor R. 510-339-4700	2 - 1bd/1ba Sun 1-430		\$295,000

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
4333 Fleming Shoreline Caldwell Banker, 510-339-4700	2bd/1ba Sun 2-430		\$287,500

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
151 Lakeside Dr. Lake Merritt, Open Sun. Tom Lewis, 510-339-9800, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	2bd/2ba 2-430		\$

Reid

FROM PAGE B-

FUND FOR FOUNDATION GROWS

The Oakland Association of Realtors wants to do something extra to help support the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. The foundation provides college scholarship funds for Oakland high school students. A committee, chaired by Evelyn Walker of Coldwell Banker was formed to create a simple and easy way for those in the real estate community to contribute. Real estate agents and brokers may designate contributions, at the close of escrow, for a special fund. The proceeds of the fund will be donated to the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. Over \$14,000 has been raised so far, but to reach the goal of \$18,000 everyone's help is needed. To find out more and participate contact Walker at 510-339-4778.

WCR INSTALLS JOHNSON

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter announced the date for their annual installation of officers. It will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 14. Outgoing President Denise Smith of Royal Realtors & Loan Services will pass the gavel to George Johnson of Ameristar. The ceremony and luncheon will be held at His Lordships, in Berkeley. The oath of office will be administered by the WCR Governor, Linda Ellen Anderson of Prudential Realty. For reservations call 510-482-8200. To learn more about WCR, visit their

Web site at www.wcr.org.

MONSEF 2001 AAR PRESIDENT

Hadi Monsef of Mason Management will take over the reins from Ann Braceli of Gallagher & Lindsey, as the 2002 President of the Alameda Association of Realtors. The inauguration is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 13, at 11 a.m. with a Social Hour. The event takes place at the Oakland Yacht Club, on Pacific Marina, in Alameda. To reserve your place call Kristin McMahon at the AAR office, 510-523-7229.

OAR 98TH INAUGURAL

The Oakland Association of Realtors is accepting reservations for their upcoming 98th Inaugural Luncheon. The 2001 President, John Holmgren of Holmgren & Associates will hand over the gavel to the 2002 President, Evelyn Walker of Coldwell Banker. It will be held on Friday, Dec. 7, at 11:30 a.m., at the Claremont Resort Hotel. A special presentation will be made to the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. For tickets call Judith Boren at 510-836-3000.

100TH ANNIVERSARY

One hundred years and still going strong. Reserve Thursday, Dec. 13 as the date for the upcoming Berkeley Association of Realtors Inaugural. A dinner/dance will take place at the Claremont Resort Hotel, with a cocktail hour beginning at 6 p.m. Outgoing President Steve Yoshimuro of Nakamura Real Estate will welcome incoming President Miriam Ng of Korman & Ng.

For ticket information call Don Clark at 510-848-4288.

LICENSE RENEWAL

Renew your real estate license. Attend and earn all 45 DRE credit hours at once. The seminar includes Agency, Ethics, Trust Funds and Fair Housing. The instructor will be "The Real Estate Guys" talk show host, Charlie Krackeler. Seminars are held on weekday mornings, in a variety of Bay area locations. For more information about attending to renew your license call 1-800-54-RENEW.

WANTED COMMERCIAL BROKERS

Bob Valva of Valva Realty invites Oakland real estate brokers to attend the Oakland Realtors Commercial & Industrial Brokers Committee. According to Valva the group was appointed years ago, by the Oakland mayor to facilitate city sales and leasing. The committee's purpose is to help build Oakland. The next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 13, at the OAR Auditorium on Webster. If you would like to attend call Valva at 510-451-7317.

NEW INTERNET PORTAL

Realtors are invited to experience www.realtor.org, a new online gateway launched by the National Association of Realtors. It pledges to put the power of the Web at Realtors' fingertips. The new site promises to be the premier portal for the real estate community. It features advanced tools and technology and allows for interaction with peers throughout the industry. The site www.realtor.org combines into

one information portal and number of existing sites. Check it out.

ATTENTION MORTGAGE PROFESSIONALS

CAMB

The California Association of Mortgage Brokers (CAMB) strives to keep mortgage professionals educated and informed. A dinner meeting is held monthly, with guest speakers discussing timely topics. Networking kicks off each CAMB meeting, held on the fourth Thursday of each month. To find out more call the CAMB Hotline is 925-275-2663.

Breakfast Club

Join the lively Wednesday Morning Breakfast Meetings, presented by the California Association of Residential Lenders (CARL). Meetings are held every Wednesday at American Title in Walnut Creek on Olympic boulevard. Start time begins promptly at 8:15 a.m. Breakfast refreshments are served. Need info? Want to recommend a speaker? Call Pat Johnson of TRI Commercial Real Estate Services at 925-296-3300.

WHO'S ON FIRST?

Someone new at your com-

pany? Something new to do? Putting it all together? I'd be happy to help. Contact me at 714-945-5555.

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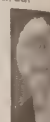
Just listed: ALL level 2 bedroom, 2 bath unit with den. Carport at the door, a lovely patio off dining area.



Marilyn Miller
(925) 253-4688

Asking: \$359,000
Call to see Rossmoor and this unit:

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Orinda, CA 94563
(925) 253-4600



Marilyn Miller
(925) 253-4688

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RESIDENTIAL BROKER

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I recently represented the Buyers of
206 Sunnyside Avenue, Piedmont

Claire Cochran Cunningham
510-287-9065

For help in finding the home of your
dreams, please give me a call.



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PRICE REDUCED IN NEWER

MONTCLAIR HOME.....\$825,000
Wonderful Traditional floor plan with large family room, kitchen with spacious eat-in area, formal living and dining rooms, 4 bedrooms & 3 baths, stone terrace to backyard with level grass area., lower part of Montclair.
Caroline Peters 510-339-8400

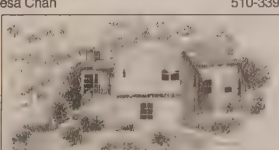
SWEET ROCKRIDGE

CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW.....\$595,000
This beautiful home has all original detailing including wainscoting, built-in cabinets, inlaid hardwood floors, and large front porch. Updated Kitchen and Baths, 3 bedrooms with new hardwood floors. New roof and garage with long driveway for extra cars.
5444 Manila Ave.
Caroline Peters 510-339-8400



NEW CHINA HILL LISTING.....\$478,000

Charm Galore! Fabulous brown shingle, deep yard Walk to Lake and transportation Peek view of Lake & city lights. Must see! 3 Br/2 Ba.
335 Hanover Ave.
Teresa Chan 510-339-4000



COZY MONTCLAIR CHARMER.....\$459,000

Close to Montclair Village, Traditional Archedways, random plank hardwoods, level rear patio in a woody setting, 1100 Mountain Blvd.
Jennifer Arthur 510-339-8400

Open Sunday 12/09



OLD FASHIONED FARMHOUSE.....\$449,000

In the heart of Rockridge. Just a few minutes from BART, Library and cafes. Good floorplan- Formal Dining Room with French doors to private deck.
371 Hudson
Jennie Lippincott 510-339-8400



STEPS FROM BERKELEY'S

BELOVED 4TH ST.....\$375,000
This special condo offers home-like qualities with almost 1,200 square feet, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 parking places. With only 4 units in the complex, you'll love the peace and quiet. An easy walk to the shops and restaurants of 4th Street, you'll never be bored!
1030 Delaware Street, Unit A, Berkeley
Mary Jane McConville 510-339-8400

RARE CONDO OFFERING

IN ROSE GARDEN AREA.....\$135,000
Here's a studio in a good building with pool above 560. Separate bedroom area, plus balcony.
555 Jean V334
Jim Schubert 510-339-4000

By Appointment

NESTLED IN THE WOODS

OF ORINDA.....\$1,495,000
Surrounded by oak trees, creek with a bridge, privacy galore, close to downtown, 3,720 square feet w/ 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, all on 1.14 acres. Very rare opportunity.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

GREAT LOCATION.....\$459,000

Neat and clean with pool, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,700 square feet, newer comp roof, new windows, living and family room for entertaining, close to schools.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

By Appointment



TRADITIONAL WITH SPACE.....\$1,598,000

Formal rooms, Kitchen was in Sunset Magazine, Front parlor plus living and dining rooms, 4+ Bedrooms upstairs, Master Suite on lower level with separate entrance for play-rooms or office suite, 3 car garage at end of gated driveway.
Caroline Peters 510-339-8400



YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL!.....\$825,000

You don't want to miss this European styled Montclair home with level garden and panoramic 3-bridge bay view. Retreat to the master level to enjoy privacy while your interior & exterior balconies remind you of the exquisite beauty surrounding you.
Mary Jane McConville 510-339-8400

A RARE FIND.....\$774,500

Large, remodeled, Westside traditional rancher. Lovely interior includes crown molding, wainscoting, granite kitchen, French doors, hardwood and Berber floors. 4 Bedrooms, 3 full Baths. Au-pair capabilities. Huge yard with solar heated pool. Walking distance to town, toll Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

SWEETHEART.....\$634,500

Camel charm located in the heart of Westside, this adorable home has been re-modeled and expanded to be "turn key". New roof, new hear/air, new cultured marble Master bath, deep park-like yard with new deck and spa. Walk to schools, Iron Horse Trail, shops and restaurants. Sweet deal!
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

UPDATED CROW CANYON ROME.....\$599,950

Views of the 14th fairway, covered deck with spa, updated kitchen, hardwood flooring, Anderson French doors, plantation shutters, high ceilings, crown molding, 2 bedrooms + 1 master suite, 2 full baths.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

By Appointment



TOP OF THE HILL WITH

OCEAN VIEWS.....\$825,000
Hardwood floors, in-law unit, enclosed patio, beautiful fireplace in LR. Move in condition.
Gary Robinson

SHARP AND IMMACULATE

Gorgeous curb appeal, old fashioned wood entry, cathedral ceilings, Berber carpet throughout. Gourmet Kitchen with garden window and granite counter. Paver patio and detached garage with automatic opener, Pool, spa, club.
Danville Better Homes

1ST TIER BUYER'S DELIGHT.....\$825,000

Charming 2 1/2 in San Leandro's North Area. So many rooms and delightful details. Formal Dining Room, Kitchen, detached garage. Don't delay!
Earle Shenk

NEW DUPLEX!.....\$825,000

Side by side units, Popular Alameda Park, great transportation. 1 Br/1 Ba, 2 car garage. Probable value.
Teresa Chan



BEST BUY.....\$825,000

Very large 3 Bed/2 Bath Remodeled home. Ready to move in. Near shops and schools.
AD, Nassir 5



THROUGH THE GATES AT ROSSMOOR.....\$825,000

You will find this single story 2 bed/2 bath home. Large & bright living room, dining area and opens to private patio. Extremely quiet area with wonderful landscaping.
Nahid Nassir

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Harbor Bay Isle, Alameda

\$685,000

Beautiful 3 br, 2.5 bath home directly on water, 2370 sq. feet, very spacious rooms, large backyard with extensive decking, fantastic lagoon views, new paint and carpet, new roof, many upgrades, great home for entertaining. One block to Harbor Bay Health Club, Shoreline Park, and Earhart School.

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650 Blair Avenue

\$959,000

Serenity & exceptional architecture are the hallmarks of this wonderful home. 3BR/2.5BA + family room, library & office/au-pair quarters. Garden & Bay views. Erika Celestre

231 Palm Drive

New Listing \$875,000

Wonderful well-loved home on a popular street. Original cobblestone drive, hardwood floors, family room with fireplace, private deck. 4BR/2BA. Nancy Lehrkind

7028 Thornhill Drive

\$689,000

This charming traditional with 3BR/2BA and exquisite detailing, is located on a large level lot with views plus rumpus room & new kitchen. Cherie Curliano

3005 Holyrood Drive

New Listing \$649,000

Enjoy beautiful Bay views from this level-in custom Piedmont Pines home. Master suite + 2 bedrooms and two "plus" rooms. Michelle Winchester

5927 Chaboly Terrace

\$499,000

Just blocks to BART & Market Hall. 3BR/1BA, updated kitchen w/island. Formal living room with fireplace, formal dining room, hardwood floors & level garden. Mavis Delacroix

7128 Saroni Drive

\$549,000

A wonderful Montclair home in a wonderful woody, peaceful setting. Updated kitchen. 4BR/2BA. Two private decks. Spacious! Steve Michaelides

5216 Golden Gate

\$519,000

Be Surprised! Sleek & sunny, easy open floor plan with new kitchen & baths, expansive garden & brick patio, views, excellent location, best area. Carolyn Jones

3834 Randolph Avenue New Listing \$479,000

Lovely bungalow in popular Glenview! 3BR/2BA Remodeled kitchen. Mint condition. Fabulous garden w/ fruit trees & decks. Angela Wei Grubb

200 Caldecott Ln#113

New Price \$339,000

Exceptional Parkwoods "Piedmont" model w/2BR/2BA, lovely hardwood floors, fireplace, two master suites with huge closets. 2 parking spaces. Carolyn Jones

Skyline View Estate

\$2,500,000

Watch the sunset from this phenomenal new Spanish with approx 6,500 sq. ft. Elevator. Front courtyard, terraces, level garden & only the finest finishes. Debra J. Dryden

Piedmont Mediterranean

\$1,935,000

Mediterranean showcase w/expansive gardens, European kitchen, sumptuous master retreat. The perfect place for a distinctive lifestyle of comfort & harmony. Sandra Vogl

Central Piedmont

\$1,525,000

This elegant new country French masterpiece in central Piedmont has been exquisitely designed and rebuilt by a team of award winning professionals. Mindy Scott

Dramatic Hills Contemporary

\$695,000

Dramatic 1996, 4BR/3BA contemporary with Bay and hill views. Gourmet kitchen with eating area and adjacent family room, opens to lovely terraced garden. Linda McClain

Exceptional Berkeley Home

\$625,000

Spacious 3BR/2BA 2-story home! Grand piano size living room! Eat-in kitchen opens to garden! 1/2 block from all urban amenities. Workshop! Lori Lombardo

Montclair with Views

\$499,000

Great value in Montclair, Bay views near the Village, kitchen/family room combo, 3BR/2BA upstairs plus home office with separate entrance. Judith Cain

Montclair Contemporary

\$425,000

Great location near Montclair Village, this contemporary home offers a peek of the Bay in a wooded setting with 3BR/2BA and level-outdoor living. Judith Cain

Sophisticated Live/Work Loft

\$295,000

Luxurious townhouse-style loft. Sunny open spaces. Upgraded kitchen & bath. Romantic garden patio. Easy SF commute. Donna DeBardi

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BY APPOINTMENT



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A black and white photograph of a large, two-story house with a prominent chimney and a covered porch, surrounded by trees and shrubs. The house has a gabled roof and a small porch on the right side. The surrounding landscape includes several large trees and shrubs, and a path leads to the front of the house.



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
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SPORTS

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Section C

Inside Baseball's universe: expansion, contraction [C2]

Inside Fishing report [C2]



RON SALSIG
Range Rat

Q-school: further adventures

Jeff Brehaut is a veteran of the Bay Area golf scene, a guy who grew up playing local NCGA tournaments in the Alameda Commuters in the San Francisco City. You have to look hard to see his name listed in the NCGA Bluebook archives of past champions. Brehaut did not win much in his amateur career.

But he never gave up. Brehaut, who was born in Mountain View and currently lives in Sunnyvale, went on to play golf at the University of the Pacific in Stockton. He turned pro soon after graduation in 1986, playing mostly on the Golden State Tour, which is spread around the Bay Area and pursues that look like today's entry fees.

In 1992 his game started to come together. He won three times on that mini-tour. Locally, he remembers watching him finish in the top five in the People's Open. And in Q-School that year he earned a place on the Hogan (now Buy.com) Tour. Brehaut won twice on that tour before finally making it to the PGA Tour in 1999. In his 10th year he took eighth place in the Texas Open and finished 18th on the money list. He made it back to the top in 2000, only to tear his anterior cruciate ligament in January. It required major surgery. He was out for the year.

This year he played on a medical extension, finishing 18th on the money list. That meant he had to go back to Q-School, which ended Monday. And it all came down to a 10-foot putt.

Brehaut had an amazing putt in his fifth round — 18 feet, 10 inches. But even par is not good enough in this tournament. It took a score of 17-under through six rounds to win a PGA Tour card.

In the final round, Brehaut made a few birdies on the front nine to get his cumulative score to 18-under at the turn, but he was above the cut-line. And he promptly made bogey on both the 10th and 11th holes. His golfing life was suddenly on the line with seven holes left to redeem himself.

He birdied the 12th to get back on the cut-line. The next three holes he scrambled for par, then disaster. He bogeyed the 16th.

Two holes left, the year 2002 hangs in the balance, and he has to birdie.

Brehaut summoned the courage to go for the par-5 hole in two shots, and made a birdie. Now he was 17-under on the cut-line. He reached the 18th safely in two strokes, 25 feet from the pin. But he never got caught on his lag putt. He was four feet short.

There is no putt in golf like a four-footer. You're supposed to make it. But statistics on the tour say they are only made 60 percent of the time. After walking around the putt for some time, he sank it.

Brehaut will play the PGA Tour in 2002.

The above is just one story from last week's Q-School. Here are some others:

Paul Still was right near the hole, playing the 17th hole, when he hit his bunker shot into the bunker and inadvertently hit the flag. He finished at 16-under, one stroke too many.

He was not the most religious golfer. Still said, "But maybe there's a good Lord's way of saying it's not my time yet."

Ronald Thatcher came to



HARD-DRIVING CHASE MOORE of St. Mary's dribbled Berkeley's Damien Burns. Playing at Berkeley on Dec. 4, the Panthers, who have moved from Division IV, where they were state champs in 2000, into Division I this winter, topped the Yellow Jackets 58-49.

Panthers rally past 'Jackets

Sharper scores 21 for St. Mary's; Berkeley's Burns hits for 14 points

By Phil Jensen
STAFF WRITER

BERKELEY — The St. Mary's and Berkeley high school boys' basketball teams sure didn't ease into their seasons.

The two teams, who both won their respective league titles last season, opened this campaign with a battle for city bragging rights. After Berkeley took a 29-24 halftime lead, St. Mary's battled back with a late third-quarter surge and finished with a 58-49 nonleague victory in both teams' season debut.

"We've been in this position a lot, being behind. They have a lot of experience," St. Mary's coach Jose Caraballo said about his team. "The kids played hard."

The Panthers were competing without last year's Contra Costa Times Player of the Year, point guard DaShawn Freeman, who is sidelined with a foot injury. John Sharper and 6-foot-4 Chase Moore shared point guard duties Tuesday.

"In the first half, we had to get used to the flow," said Sharper, who scored 14 of his game-high 21 points in the second half. "In the second half, we said 'we have to get out there and play like we usually do.'"

Prep boys' basketball

St. Mary's	58
Berkeley	49

Berkeley took its halftime lead behind the play of Damien Burns, who scored 10 of his team-high 14 points in the first half. The Yellow Jackets held a 38-34 lead with two minutes remaining in the third quarter before the Panthers started a 14-1 run.

An offensive rebound put-back by Simon Knight started the run. Sharper hit a pivotal three-pointer in the run to give St. Mary's a 41-38 lead, and Fred Hives added two baskets for the Panthers in the run.

Berkeley battled back, however. A driving basket by Khion Tate gave narrowed St. Mary's lead to 52-49 with one minute 34 seconds remaining.

But Sharper nailed his fourth three-pointer of the game 25 seconds later, as St. Mary's scored the last six points of the game.

College Park 50, Freedom 42

OAKLEY — College Park held Freedom (0-2) to one field goal in the second quarter, then held on for 50-42 nonleague victory.

Mark Neal scored 19 points for College Park (2-0). His 3-pointer midway through the third quarter put the damper on an Andre Swanson-sparked rally which saw Freedom cut the deficit from 25-14 to 27-23.

Freedom was 1 of 11 from the floor in the second quarter, and did not score until Kellan Dunn hit a 10-foot jumper with 32.9 seconds left in the half. Swanson scored 16 of his 20 points in the second half, seven in the first three minutes of the third quarter.

See PANTHERS, Page C2

Cougars weather a loss

Jets 'rain' on Cougars' parade; club drops to 0-2

By Bill Kruissink
STAFF WRITER

ALAMEDA — Winter soccer brings out, if not the best, then the 'tough' in people. It's the rain, it's the cold, it's the slippery conditions. Winning a match is almost an extra.

For teams in the throes of a youth movement, things can be especially difficult — getting used to each other as well as the wintry conditions.

Playing a non-league match in drizzly, cold conditions at Atlantic Field on Dec. 4, the Encinal Jets broke into the win column, checking a good-natured Albany club 1-0. It was a huge victory for Encinal — its first after tying four times and losing one game — but not all that much a disappointment for the Cougars, who slipped to 0-2. After all, Albany entered the match with a young team that features five freshmen and a couple sophomores and with little or no knowledge of the opposition.

"I really didn't know what to expect," said senior sweeper Zoe Griffith, who is one of three Cougars captains. "I know our team has changed a lot in the last two years, so I didn't come in with any expectations (against Encinal)."

The Cougars hung tough — there's that word 'tough' again — for more than 50 minutes before yielding a goal, struck off the foot of Encinal's Katie Garchar. The team endured the wicked weather and unfamiliar surroundings and showed a good deal of maturity through it all.

And believe it — the young Cougars were under pressure. Encinal, which also has a young team, stayed on the offense for the better part of the game. Led



PLAYING IN WET, cool conditions, the Albany girls fell to the Encinal Jets 1-0 in Alameda on Dec. 4.

by midfielder Emily Allegrotti and winger Leah Abraham, the Jets (1-4-1) pounded away at the Cougars — with little to show until the one goal hit the net 12 minutes into the second half.

"It's always surprising when a team is on the offense the whole time," Griffith said.

Sophomore keeper Sasha Maxwell felt the heat, even as temperatures dipped. She recorded seven saves, two logged in the first 10 minutes. Thirty minutes into the match, she survived a direct kick by Allegrotti to Abraham, then another attack

by the same pair just four minutes later.

The weather had an effect on the Cougar attack. In an effort to get the ball to forwards such as junior Fiona Gladstone, right wing Kaitlin Friedman spent a good deal of time sliding to the ball. Each slip took time — time the Jets used to get to the ball.

Griffith said that in weather like this, "the ball is going to be slippery. Mud is slippery and I think it's kind of a downer."

Behind, the Cougars began to pick their offense up — but Encinal, which employed no sweeper,

but flexed into a four-back defense, played hard down the stretch, denying Albany a goal.

For Encinal, which went without a win in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League last winter, this was a giant step.

"We've gotten so much better," sophomore Allegrotti said. For Albany, 2-3-2 in the Bay Shore Athletic League a year ago, the wait for a win continues.

"I think we need to work together," Griffin said. "I think we'll be ready (for league), but we

See COUGARS, Page C2

Comets lose in 'T'-time

Young's 3-pointer sends game to OT; Panthers' Stokes signs letter of intent

TIMES STAFF

SAN PABLO — The Contra Costa College women's basketball team fell 65-62 in overtime to Chabot in the semifinals of the Comet Classic on Friday night.

CCC's Iman Young hit a 3-pointer from the left wing in the closing seconds of regulation to tie the game 57-57 and send it into overtime.

But Chabot hit six free throws in overtime that won the game and put the Gladiators in the championship.

A controversial technical foul call hurt the Comets (7-3) late in overtime. Trailing 63-61 with 27 seconds remaining, CCC was called for a technical for signaling for a timeout when the team had none left.

Teresa Patino hit both free throws for Chabot (6-1) to ice the game.

CCC coach Paul DeBolt did not feel his team signaled for a timeout, but he was more upset with the Comets' sloppy ball-handling throughout the game.

The Comets committed 29 turnovers and hit just 24 of 70 shots from the field.

"We didn't play well," DeBolt said. "We were lackadaisical and didn't rebound well."

Young had 33 points, 10 rebounds, eight assists and seven steals for the Comets, who play City College of San Francisco today at 3 p.m. for third place.

See LETTER, Page C1

Baseball's universe: expansion, contraction

"Washington — first in war, first in peace, last in the American League."

— the seemingly annual lament of old Washington Senators fans.



MIKE MCGREEHAN
Between the Lines

fighting back.

I'm finding there are a tremendous amount of Twins fans who are very upset about the possibility of losing the Twins," says former Bay Area resident Doug Donley, now living in Minneapolis. "A lot of people here see it as bribery — 'If you don't build us a new stadium, we're going to take your team away.' Regardless, the Twins put together a tremendous year this year without a big payroll."

Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura is against public funding for a new stadium. Most agree that the Metrodome has outlived its usefulness — though few seemed to mind when the Twins won World Series championships in 1987 and 1991 and became the first team in major league history to draw 3 million fans in 1988.

"It's strange to watch baseball indoors," Donley says. "I'm not a fan of baseball on carpet. I'm a purist, but I got over it."

Donley, originally from Cleveland, grew up an Indians fan. After becoming pastor of Dolores Street Baptist Church in San Francisco, he and some fellow clergy bought A's season tickets.

"I wanted to be near an American League city so I could go see the Indians," said Donley, who took over as pastor of University Baptist Church in Minneapolis during the previous baseball offseason. "I shared a couple of season tickets with three or four other clergy. We would go to afternoon games to watch baseball and talk church."

Like the Twins, both the A's and Indians are traditional American League teams, tracing their roots to the founding of the AL in 1901. A Sports Illustrated story two years ago pegged the A's as a team on the chopping block. And if this idea had floated 10 years ago, the Indians could surely have been a sacrificial lamb.

"I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, and I attended many games in cavernous Municipal Stadium (aka, 'The Mistake by the Lake') when 5,000 people were there," Donley says. "The present-day Twins remind me a lot of the Indians of the early '90s by signing a lot of young talent."

Oakland resident Pete Elman recalls a different era of Twins baseball, the pre-1961 era when they were still the original Washington Senators and played at Griffith Stadium. "Damn Yankees" is the story of my life," says Elman, who grew up in Washington D.C. "I have distinct memories of going to Griffith Stadium when I was a little boy," Elman added, as he began to rattle off the names of some of his childhood heroes.

Brad Elder was right around the cut-line after five rounds. He triple-bogeyed the first hole on Monday. And birdied the next three. Elder got his card.

Ty Tryon was in 50th place after five rounds. The 17-year-old high school junior shot a bogey-free 66 on Monday to earn playing privileges on the PGA Tour when he turns 18, in June. He might be out at Pebble Beach in February — the tour is allowing him seven sponsor exemptions until his birthday.

Meet Boo Weekly, who describes himself as nothing but a "good ol' boy, that's all." Weekly, who will surely add some color to the tour, started the final round right on the cut-line and finished 23rd.

Boo is hard to miss — he wears rain pants because cotton makes him break out in a rash, and sneakers because "spikes kinda hurt my feet."

He lists his previous employment as farming cotton and soybeans, with a stint in a chemical plant as a hydroblaster.

"Heck, all I've ever done is play the mini-tours," he said. "I know I don't wear the proper attire, but that's just me. I don't plan to change."

Welcome to the PGA Tour.

Salsig

FROM PAGE C1

Ron Salsig can be reached at rsalsig@pacbell.net

fielder Emily Allegrotti said, "I like it — I think it's fun. I do enjoy the weather, but it does mean you have to step up your game, adjust to the conditions."

CAPTAINS: The Cougars have named seniors Griffith, Kimberly Bell and Tessa Hager-Holson as team captains.

FINAL 2000-01 BSAL standings

W L T P
Piedmont 9 0 0 27
Salesian 8 1 0 24
St. Mary's 7 2 0 21
St. Joseph 4 4 1 13
Holy Names 4 4 1 13
Albany 2 3 2 8
St. Patrick 2 6 1 7
Berean Christian 2 5 1 7
John Swett 1 8 0 3
Kennedy 0 7 0 0

NOTE: Wins count three points, ties one

Cougars

FROM PAGE C1

need to be working it out."

At least the Cougars know they can deal with weird weather conditions and can hang with teams they have not played before.

Postmatch

FOR THE WEATHER RECORD: This makes two game in a row in which the Cougars have played in wet weather. Last week, they played in a downpour.

Albany sweeper Zoe Griffith said: "This week compared to last week isn't so bad."

Not everyone disliked the weather, however. Encinal mid-

fielder Emily Allegrotti said, "I like it — I think it's fun. I do enjoy the weather, but it does mean you have to step up your game, adjust to the conditions."

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Panthers

FROM PAGE C1

Lars Harelson added 18 points for College Park.

Ygnacio Valley 63, Washington-Fremont 55

FREMONT — Marcus Ligons poured in a season-high 26 points to lead the Warriors (3-1) to a victory in their first road game of the season.

Kasey Bradburn nailed four 3-pointers and added 16 points for Ygnacio Valley.



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Bay Area fishing report

Pacifi Ocean

Skippers at the Berkeley and Emeryville sportfishing centers are pulling hard for a break in the weather. It's been a week since a boat took off from either location. A rockfish/crab combo trip Wednesday was the first trip for Emeryville in a week. Berkeley has one boat going out today, the New Golden Eye, and the New EZ Rider has crab-only trips scheduled for Friday through Sunday.

THE BAYS

SUISUN BAY: The rains have brought out the sturgeon — and the sturgeon anglers. A 103-pounder was caught between Roe and Ryer islands, on skipper John Badger's boat. His guests also accounted for sturgeon of 88, 77 and 40 pounds on that trip. Saturday, Matt Smart landed a 101-pounder at the Yellow Can near Port Chicago.

Most sturgeon being caught have been from 40 to 65 pounds, such as the 61-inch fish Charlie Seibert weighed in at Martinez Bait & Tackle. Steve Mitchell landed a 46-pound sturgeon, then a few days later brought a 20-pound sturgeon into McAvoy's in Bay Point.

Badger and fishing guide Jeff Collins also have been hooking up with strippers in Middle Ground and the Firing Line.

Jim Smith, his son James and 10 anglers went into Honker on Saturday and came back with 12 limits of strippers before a storm rolled in. A day earlier, they were back at the Martinez Marina by 1 p.m. with 15 limits.

Barry Canavaro wasn't having quite the same luck. As of noon Wednesday, anglers on his boat in Montezuma Slough had landed five strippers, up to 6 pounds.

"It's been a lot better than this," Canavaro said.

One angler brought a 30-pound sturgeon into Docksie Bait in Pittsburg, and two Antioch anglers weighed in strippers of 19 and 14 pounds at Gotchal Bait. But aside from that, most fish have been about 7 or 8 pounds. Do Buong of Docksie said. A last gasp of the fall salmon run, a 30-pound king, was caught outside the Pittsburg Marina last week.

David Gehringer managed to stay out of the choppy water, catching a 2-pound, 3-ounce black bass in the Antioch Marina on a spinner.

THE RIVERS

SACRAMENTO RIVER, COLLINSVILLE TO ISLETON: Aside from five sturgeon weighed in at Hap's on Friday, it's been a slow week. Stan Mitchell of Galt caught an 81-pounder on eel in Cache Slough.

Dan Thomas of Ripon landed an 81-pounder on ghost shrimp. Moke Wagner of Lodi caught a 86-pounder near the Rio Vista Bridge, which is where Henry Robinson of Stockton caught a 59-pounder. The smallest of the five was caught by Audie Urbano, the owner of Hap's. There was little sturgeon action, and anglers also are reporting that bait-stealing mitten crabs seem to be on the decline.

THE DELTA

Foul weather doesn't stop die-hard anglers, but it does thin out the crowd around the fishing hole. Richard Santos of Antioch brought a 10-pound sturgeon, caught on shad at Sherman Island, into Gotcha last week, and Rick Lemay landed a 39-pound sturgeon, on ghost shrimp, just east of the Antioch Bridge.

But the rain and high winds through the area have made conditions that only the die-hards would be willing to put up with.

"The weather's got a lot to do with it," said a clerk at Delta Sportsman on Bethel Island. "It's awfully cold up here."

THE LAKES

LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, LAFAYETTE: If you're on Steve Ellerson's Christmas list, you might be getting a trout. The Lafayette angler weighed in a couple of 5-pound rainbows caught in the south end last week, then two days later got his limit with fish from 2-3 pounds. Activity at the lake has been slow because of the rains, but the weekly trout plants have continued.

LAKE DEL VALLE, LIVERMORE: Anglers still are averaging two to three fish per rod, but the foul weather has kept most anglers away from the water. Limits are being caught, with best results in the south end. Trollers working near the dam are taking one or two fish, on average. Bass and catfish have slowed down. Go deep, from 20-40 feet, for bass. Catfish and panfish are barely being seen right now.

SHADOW CLIFFS, PLEASANTON: The trout pond is closed, and the marina will be closing Dec. 17, but aside from that the trout fishing is pretty good now. The colder weather has helped the bite. Try the early morning or late afternoon. Pair a marshmallow with a worm or salmon eggs, or try a midge wobbler or a silver fox. The

LAKE CAMANOE, EUREKA: Bank fishing on Hosana is still the best bet, with the pond a close second. Limbuck common at the pond, with flathead Powerball. Use shallowwater and crank baits for bass, and all the usual kinds of place bait are being at night in the lake's coves, on liver and mackerel.

HORSESHOE LAKE, OAKLAND: The 80-acre lake, owned by the East Bay Regional Park is scheduled to open to the public Saturday. It's part of the Quaker Lakes Park and will be stocked by the EBPRD and the Department of Fish & Game.

LAKE TEMESCAL, OAKLAND: Anglers are using worm and yellow Powerball and averaging of 2-3 fish per rod.

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ANY MOUNTAIN

Letter

FROM PAGE C1

Stokes heading for Northridge

St. Mary's Danielle Stokes has signed a letter of intent to attend Cal State Northridge on a partial scholarship.

As a junior, Stokes reached the California Interscholastic Federation State Championships last year in both the 100-meter hurdles and 300 hurdles events. Stokes also considered Long Beach State and Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo before making her decision.

Arts

BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

A cult by any other name ...

Le Mot Juste: In the column-writers' game, we're always looking for just the right word or phrase to describe someone. Modifiers R Us.

I adored the old, hard-hitting *Spy* Magazine and its acerbic, witty descriptions of the rich and famous. My favorite of all may have been *Spy*'s standard line that preceded a loathsome New York tycoon's name: "Short-finned vulgarian Donald Trump." So, what's the best and most accurate modifier to go before Osama's name in news stories, we wonder? "Mass murderer?" That certainly seems fitting. "Terrorist?" It's accurate, but a bit too mild and generic. "Islamic extremist?" Much too insipid.

Now, from the op-ed pages of the Los Angeles Times comes another description to ponder: Cult leader. Writer Norah Vincent posits that al-Qaida is, first and foremost, a cult, noting, "al-Qaida has no more to do with Islam than Jim Jones had to do with Christianity — and it is no more a bona fide terrorist organization than was Charles Manson's fam-

Vincent calls the organization, which certainly fits that classic description of a cult — "unglued adherents" — "a charismatic psychopath's bid for immortality via the macabre enactment of his paranoid fantasies. Nothing more."

So, "cult leader" may be the most realistic way of looking at Osama and his vicious, Jew-hating organization. Plus, there's the added bonus of the possible invocation of Manson's name. Vincent further notes in his insightful Times piece that "hated for the U.S. government is a quality al-Qaida shares with American cults like Manson's family, David Koresh's Branch Davidians, the Montana Snake, and loner offshoots like Timothy McVeigh."

Speaking of the above and of memorable and accurate phrases, I caught an amusing description of bin Laden's mountain hideout/cave network last week from a BBC reporter in Kabul, who called it "Osama's ant farm."

Speaking of unglued adherents: What are we to make of the young man from Marin, Habib Walker (or whatever his latest chosen name is) who was found drowned in a flooded basement with his Taliban brothers in Iraq?

Many local radio talk-show hosts and callers this week said that Walker fit the classic description of someone who should be tried for treason. Several readers e-mailed me similar sentiments. I agree, and lost in all the hubbub reporting on this bizarre case is the fact that an American, a CIA agent, died in that same prison riot, and one could argue in court that Walker was actually culpable.

One KGO host said of the inmate's parental and neighborhood relations, "They should not have loved his religious conversion so much." Indeed. And, I'm curious: At just what point did Walker transition from an "impressionable young man" studying the Koran to someone carrying a rocket-propelled grenade and fighting his countrymen?

One thing's certain: As Hills writer Margo Sobel puts it, "As much as I saw this story — and as much as my relatives in Wisconsin saw it — we knew that this guy had a California connection. The rest of the country was having a good laugh at our expense once again."

All Beattles must pass: The late Beatle I got to meet, luckily, was the late George Harrison, whose album, "Living in the Material World," was remarkable for its evocation of spiritual longing. I took away George, and, yes, the Beatles (John and Paul) had great music and lyrics, political relevance, charisma, musical innovation, cultural impact, etc. etc. I'd argue that George's influence on music/spiritual input gave the greatest of all rock groups an important dimension it would have lacked otherwise. "Within You Without You," to cite but one example, was a remarkable advance over "Sergeant Pepper's."

And George's backstage in late 1967 in Montreal during Harrison's Dark Horse tour, the first

See MANN, Page C5



IT TAKES A THIEF, or at least 11 of them, to pull off a major heist in "Ocean's Eleven," starring George Clooney, center, Don Cheadle, left, Shaobo Qin and Casey Affleck.

'Ocean's Eleven' a gamble that pays off

By Mary F. Pols
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Fortunately, director Steven Soderbergh's remake of "Ocean's Eleven" bears little resemblance to the blindingly boring 1960 Rat Pack caper movie. Instead it's like watching a diet version of "Traffic" — completely cool, but without any social or political relevance.

Lovable con artist Danny Ocean (George Clooney) gets out of the North Jersey State Prison and promptly decides he's going to attempt the biggest caper of his career — robbing three Las Vegas casinos simultaneously. But he's going to need at least 11 guys to pull it off.

He starts the hiring process by tracking down a old pal Rusty (Brad Pitt), his card shark who has had to resort to teaching poker to a Junior Brat Pack

of Hollywood television stars for spending money. In the movie's funniest sequence, we see Pitt surrounded by a group that includes Topher Grace (of "Traffic"), Joshua Jackson ("Dawson's Creek") and Holly Marie Combs ("Charmed"), all playing themselves. It's worth the price of admission just to see a baleful Pitt say "That's right, Topher," when Grace manages to answer a rudimentary poker question correctly.

Having thus wooed us, "Ocean's Eleven" skates along from there, full of slick wit and steady charm, although no other scene quite tops the lively spirit of that one. You're more likely to remember that scene than the unremarkable ending.

The main similarity to the original "Ocean's Eleven" is that a bunch of cool guys are cruising around Vegas planning the per-

REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Ocean's Eleven"

■ **STARRING:** George Clooney, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts

■ **RATING:** PG-13 (some language and sexual content)

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 56 minutes

■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters

■ **GRADE:** B+

fect caper. But this time, they actually have a solid script to work with, and we see a lot more of the mechanics of the heist. The darkly comic twist of the original is gone, and there are no kooky little numbers sung by Sammy Davis Jr. and Dean Martin. As a tradeoff, we get an equal-oppor-

tunity ensemble of talented actors. In the original, it was Frank Sinatra, Martin, Davis, Peter Lawford, Joey Bishop and then some other guys, most of whom barely had names, let alone identities. But Soderbergh takes far more care with his famous cast.

The recruitment sequences give the Oscar-winning director a chance to show off the easy grace with which he shifts time frames or locales. Rusty hires Saul (Carl Reiner) in Florida at a dog race, while Danny goes to Chicago to obtain the services of Linus (Matt Damon), a talented and inconspicuously earnest pickpocket. Together they visit a circus to recruit Yen (Shaobo Qin), a Chinese acrobat capable of squeezing into very small places.

A pair of dopey but handy auto mechanics, the Malloy brothers (Casey Affleck and Scott Caan),

are easily persuaded to leave Utah and join the gang. Blackjack dealer Frank (Bernie Mac) happily ditches Atlantic City for warmer climes. Twitchy surveillance expert Livingstone (longtime Soderbergh pal Eddie Jemison) comes out from L.A. Then there's munitions expert Basher (Don Cheadle, speaking with an overly contrived cockney accent), who is happy to ditch his current crew of incompetent criminal colleagues. "Be nice to work with proper villains again," he sniffs.

And never a truer word was said: These are proper villains, throwbacks to 1960, even. No one gets hurt, everyone has a good time, and we're assured early on that we don't need to have a moral issue with Danny's plan. Sure they're planning on walking

See 'OCEAN'S,' Page C5

'Last Smoker': One-woman show hits close to home

It's catch-up time for those among us who didn't catch Sara DeWitt doing "The Last Smoker in Berkeley" at the San Francisco Fringe Festival back in September. DeWitt will be repeating her original piece this weekend at Speakeasy Theater, 2016 Seventh St., Berkeley.

This is a funny, poignant, bittersweet take on a woman (DeWitt) who believes she is the last smoker over 35 in Berkeley. Knowing Berkeley and its stand on smoking in public places, that premise opens up plenty of byways to — dare we say — smoke out.

But it's a quickie — like those future puffs on the sidewalk outside your no-smoke workplace. "Last Smoker" only plays at 8 p.m. tonight, Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$10 purchased at the door. Two for \$10 if you are a senior or a student. No word on how much if you are both a senior AND a student which happens happily often in these days of continuing education.

DeWitt began acting at the

University of Judaism in Los Angeles and the South Coast Repertory Theatre in Costa Mesa. In 1978-79, she brought her award-winning "Virginia Woolf: The Uncommon Lady From Bloomsbury" to San Francisco, thence to the East Coast.

She returned to stay in the Bay Area in the mid-'80s. After several years of performing in local venues, DeWitt began writing solo character pieces on the human condition.

This year she turned to performing again. "Smoker" is one of the results of this new one-woman combo of writer-performer. She has a work-in-progress, "Alice & Carnation," a segment of which will be seen by and discussed with this weekend's three audiences.

A 90-YEAR-OLD DINNER: Here's another weekend threesome just skidding in line at the last moment:

Oakland Public Theater is bringing Thornton Wilder's "The Long Christmas Dinner" to Mills College's Lisser Hall



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

for three performances only — 8 p.m. tonight and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday.

This ingenious comedy represents, in fast-forward mode, 90 Christmas dinners in the life of a family — called the Bayards in the original version — and how customs and manners have changed during 10 decades. But this weekend's staged reading puts a spin on the casting that the playwright never imagined.

Instead of one family, directors Sharon Walton and Kelvin Han Yee have brought together two casts — an Asian-American family and a black family — and sat them down, figuratively, for two performances back-to-back. This arrangement adds a wholly new ethnic dimension to the changes time makes on two families' growth and development.

See TUCKER, Page C5



PHOTO COURTESY SARA DEWITT

SARA DEWITT is performing a one woman show titled "The Last Smoker in Berkeley," at the Speakeasy Theater.

EVENTS

GENERAL

Oakland Public Library — ASIAN BRANCH — "Coming and Being in America," Dec. 8, 11 a.m. Local resident Harry Gin's video of his research covering his family's immigration to San Francisco. 388 Ninth St., Suite 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400.

DIMOND BRANCH — "Internet Workshops," Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

MELROSE BRANCH — "Your Right to Know: Japanese American Internment," Dec. 8, 1 p.m. Writer Hiroshi Kashiwagi will speak about his experiences as a young man incarcerated at the Tule Lake Internment Camp during World War II.

PIEDMONT BRANCH — "A Sense of Place: A Literary Voyage in Space and Time," Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. A book discussion series facilitated by Leon Ginsky

on Ancient Greece, "Antigone" and "Oedipus Rex" by Sophocles.

160 41st St. 510-597-5011.

WEST OAKLAND BRANCH — "Holiday Celebration," Dec. 13, 1 p.m. With Marjio, storyteller, and Tumani, drummer. Co-sponsored by the African American Museum and Library in Oakland.

"Instructor's Seminar and Black Belt Conference," Dec. 15, noon. Presentations, discussions and exhibitions on philosophy, violence prevention, teaching methods and more. All styles and systems are welcome. Co-sponsored by 7 Shadows, USA Martial Arts Association.

"Chess Workshop for Children," Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to 5:20 p.m. 1801 Adeline St. 510-597-5049. Free. Oakland. 510-238-3134 or www.oaklandlibrary.org

Camron-Stanford House — "Oh! What a Beautiful Tree!" through Jan. 1. A complete top-to-bottom

traditional holiday decorating of this 125-year-old Victorian mansion on the shores of Lake Merritt. Evergreen garlands, wreaths, red bows, cornucopias and boughs are dominated by the 12-foot tree, decorated with hand-made and hand-blown ornaments, in the bay window of the Drawing Room. 1418 Lakeside Drive, Oakland.

Wednesday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 510-836-1976.

Dunsmuir Historic Estate — "The Holiday Season at Dunsmuir 2001," through Dec. 16. The Dunsmuir Mansion has been transformed into a traditional holiday home including Fabergé eggs, replica antique flying balloons, garlands and twinkling lights. The celebration includes Mansion tours, traditional carols, holiday music, and horse-drawn carriage rides.

Mansion Tours, Friday through Sun-

day, 11:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The tours are 45 minutes long and begin every 15 minutes. Reservations required. Admission and Mansion Tour: \$10 general; \$9 seniors; \$6 youths age 6 to 13.

Luncheon Buffet in the Garden Pavilion, Friday through Sunday, 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. \$16 per person.

Holiday Teas in the Dinkelspiel House, Friday, 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. \$18 per person.

Holiday Teas in the Dinkelspiel House, Saturday and Sunday, 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. NO SEATINGS DEC. 1 AND DEC. 8. \$18 per person.

Children's Tea with Father Christmas, Dec. 1 and Dec. 8, 11:15 a.m. \$18 general; \$16 children age 13 and under.

\$13 general; \$12 seniors; \$9 juniors age 6 to 13; free children age 6 and under. 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. (925) 275-9490 or

www.dunsmuir.org

Peralta Hacienda Historical Park — Paint a Mural for the Park, Dec. 7, 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. With Fulani Carter, artist.

Kwanzaa Table Displays, Dec. 14, 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Create table displays for Kwanzaa, Christmas and other winter holidays for the Open House.

Free, 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. 510-525-0712.

Pro Arts — "War and Peace," Dec. 7, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Writers reflect on the United States' participation in conflicts throughout the world. A reception and book signing follows.

Free, 461 Ninth St., Oakland. 510-525-3948.

Berkeley Art Center — Book Launch Party, Dec. 8, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The release of "The Whole World's Watching: Peace and So-

See EVENTS, Page C5

NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Vera H-C Chan and Mary F. Pols. Times; Glenn Wolf, San Jose Mercury News; Robert W. Butler and Desmond Ryan, Knight Ridder Newspapers; Anthony Brzezian, Matt Crenson, David Germain, Chris Grygiel, Christy Lemire, Sheila Norman-Culp, Malcolm Rittler, Bob Thomas and Matt Wolf, Associated Press; Leighton Klein, Boston Globe; Duane Dudek, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel; John Anderson, Bob Heister and Gene Seymour, Newsday; Stephen Holden, Dave Kehr, Elvis Mitchell, A.O. Scott and Lawrence Van Gelder, New York Times; Jack Matthews, New York Daily News; Bob Strauss and Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Kenneth Turan and Kevin Thomas, Los Angeles Times; Henry Sheehan, Orange County Register; Mark Caro and Robert K. Elder, Chicago Tribune; Nancy Churnin, Gary Dowell, Tom Maust and Tom Sims, Chris Vogner and Philip Wutch, Dallas Morning News; and Desson Howe, Washington Post.

"THE AFFAIR OF THE NECKLACE: Based on a true story set in pre-Revolutionary France, this film is a clever con artist tale about a scheme to steal a lavish adornment. Hilary Swank plays Jeanne de la Motte-Vallée, an orphan trying to regain the fortune of her disgraced father. She falls in love with court gigolo Retaux de Villedé (Simon Baker), who instructs her on the subtle arts of manipulation. They devise an elaborate ruse to defraud the cardinal, disgrace the queen and return Jeanne to the wealth she deserves. Although it looks like a costume drama, it's really a movie about human jacks. Director Charles Shyer wisely prevents the visual opulence from obscuring the cruelty at the heart of this political intrigue. — A. Brzezian. (R) 2 hours. B

"AMELIE": A feel-good movie in the best possible sense, a comic fable from French director Jean-Pierre Jeunet that vibrates with joy and fast dances with life. Amelie (the relentlessly charming Audrey Tautou) is a lonely young lady who keeps a watchful eye on the rest of the world. One day she sets out to reunite a child's treasure with its long-gone owner and discovers she likes playing emotional Robin Hood. Setting out on a path to help her neighbors and the denizens of the cafe where she works, she inadvertently trips into a love affair with a guy (Mathieu Kassovitz) who might be as sweetly eccentric as she is. Every time you think the movie is getting too sticky-sweet, Jeunet throws something tart and funny in our path. — M. Pols. (R: sexual content, language and violence) 2 hours, 3 minutes. A-

"BANDITS": Barry Levinson directs a charmer, a road movie that takes us on a real journey, one with actual twists and turns and unexpectedly funny moments. As they make their way from Oregon to Mexico, a pair of mismatched bank robbers (Bruce Willis and Billy Bob Thornton) accidentally take a zany hostage (Cate Blanchett), and both of them fall in love with her. And with them. And we with her. The West Coast, including some familiar Bay Area settings, looks gorgeous, thanks to cinematographer Dante Spinotti. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some sexual content, language and violence) 2 hours, 3 minutes. A-

"BEHIND ENEMY LINES": A military thriller heavy on the flag-waving, but notable for its brisk action sequences and the charisma of its star, Owen Wilson. He plays an American flight navigator who gets shot down in the forests of Bosnia. While a team of nasty Serbs hunt him like a fox, fearful he'll give away the location of a mass grave, his commanding officer (Gene Hackman) tries to figure out a way to rescue him. The movie takes a rapid swan dive near the end, heading into major cheese territory, but there's a lot of lively action along the way. — M. Pols. (PG-13: war violence and some language) 1 hour, 55 minutes. C+

"BLACK KNIGHT": If you like Martin Lawrence's shtick, then go. Otherwise, stand in line for "Harry Potter." Lawrence tones it down as Jamal Skywalker, a vainglorious Los Angeles theme park worker who ends up in the year 1328. The film can't stay the kind of family tale it purports to be. Horny princesses, beheadings, revolution, 21st-century cussing and humiliation by manure detract from the general merry-making. Lawrence does manage to convey some charm, but as the fish out of water, he can only flop around so much. — V. Chan. (PG-13: language, brief excretion, scatological humor) 1 hour, 36 minutes. C-

"BONES": Snop Dog raises hell as a ghetto ghost out to avenge his own murder and the subsequent decimation of his once-happy 'hood. Despite a bit of social consciousness, a few good laughs and some nice nods to other horror directors, "Bones" turns into a typical modern genre piece or gore and implausible situations run riot. That said, Pam Grier is a standout as a freaked-out psychic. — B. Strauss. (R: violence, language, drug use) 1 hour, 38 minutes. C

"BREAD AND TULIPS": This amiable new comedy suggests that an older, better Italy of imagination, rationality and civility survives on the fringes of a modern nation obsessed with consumerism, empty prosperity and easy pleasure. That city, this film says, is Venice, and it's the location where an unhappy housewife (Licia Maglietta) blossoms, and meets a melancholy waiter. Maglietta is quite good, but the film seems a little too sentimental and pat for its own good. — A.O. Scott. (PG-13: a few sexual situations) 1 hour, 44 minutes. C+

"LA BUCHE": French screenwriter Daniele Thompson ("Cousin, Cousine") returns to her favorite subject, the family. A violinist dies just before Christmas, throwing everyone into turmoil. Long-separated wives and former wives, lovers, husbands and offspring of every stripe meet around the grave. It's a fertile comic setup, for many

would just as soon pull out brass knuckles as handkerchiefs. In the center of the plot is the dead man's ex-wife and four daughters, with their unstable mix of emotions. Add to this an accommodating young man whose connection with the deceased is unclear, and the comic complications compound. — L. Klein. (NR) 1 hour, 46 minutes. C+

"THE CLOSET": Sad sack Francois Pignon (Daniel Auteuil) is about to get fired from his job at the condom factory, until his neighbor comes up with an ingenious plan to save his job. All Pignon has to do is pretend to be homosexual and his employers wouldn't be able to fire him without appearing discriminatory. Yet as soon as his co-workers think he's gay, a drag little man turns into something exciting and new. A smart comedy of errors, with many good laughs. Gerard Depardieu co-stars as a gay-bashing soccer coach forced into sensitivity. In French with subtitles. — M. Pols. (R: sexuality and language) 1 hour, 25 minutes. B+

"DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE": Stripped down to the dumbest fundamentals of the family thriller genre, the result is a film that doesn't trust viewers enough to patiently build genuine suspense. Instead, it signals every plot point much too early. Set in a small hamlet on the Maryland coast, "Disturbance" stars John Travolta as Frank Morrison, the good-guy weekend dad to Danny (Matt O'Leary). His ex-wife, Susan (Teri Polo), marries Rick Barnes, a wealthy new guy-in-town (Vince Vaughn), and Frank just knows there's something really wrong with the dude. When Danny starts telling unbelievable adults that his stepfather is a murderer, only Frank believes him. Of course, it's oh so clear all along that Rick is up to no good, so the plot offers no surprises. — B. Strauss. (PG-13: violence, child in jeopardy, language) 1 hour, 31 minutes. D+

"THE ENDURANCE": A documentary about Sir Ernest Shackleton's legendary journey to the Antarctic, based on Caroline Alexander's book. On board ship "The Endurance," with his crew of 27, Shackleton spent one agonizing winter trapped in the ice pack, then more than a year trying to reach civilization and save his crew. The film brings the story to life and imparts a timely message about man's tenacity, his ability to survive against all odds and the loyalty inherent in true leadership. The narrative is straightforward PBS-style fare, but it is made remarkable by the use of Frank Hurley's photographs and moving footage of the journey. Don't miss this one. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 33 minutes. A-

"FAT GIRL": A vile movie, but one that is viciously effective in its intent to provoke. Two young sisters, one 12 and overweight, one 15 and strikingly beautiful, are on holiday with their parents at the French seaside. The beauty hooks up with an Italian law student, who badgers her into giving him her virginity in more than one sense while we, and the fat girl, watch. Disturbing as this is, it's nonetheless a razor-sharp and sadly realistic portrayal of sexual power plays. Then director Catherine Breillat (also responsible for the dreadful "Romance") comes up with a brutal ending that invalidates all that came before it and leaves you with a sense of wonder about her need to punish and inflict pain on both her characters and the audience. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 23 minutes. C+

"FOCUS": An expressionistic adaptation of Arthur Miller's 1945 novel on anti-Semitism and demagoguery. This period piece, set in Brooklyn near the end of WWII, conveys an eerie claustrophobia. Father Crighton (Kenneth Welsh) is a radio commentator who uses coded anti-Semitic language to blame the Jews for World War II. The arrival of a Jewish storekeeper has set tempers on edge, and there is a movement to boycott his newstand. William H. Macy plays a mild-mannered milkquosteer who remains on the sidelines, and Laura Dern plays a sexy, provocative-looking woman whom he initially snubs for her Jewish appearance. The two marry, and the neighborhood's attitude toward them grows frosty. The surreal style, with its film-noir camerawork, turns the story into a fable about fear and non-conformism. Yet despite its buildup of suspense, the film's ending feels a bit tepid. — S. Holden. (PG-13: violence and sexual situations) 1 hour, 44 minutes. B+ **HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE:** Director Chris Columbus has done what fans of J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" books prayed he'd do, bringing the story of the orphaned 11-year-old wizard to life exactly as we all envisioned it. There are flaws here and there, mistakes that often go hand in hand with "big" movies — way too much music, a nip and a tuck here and there in a story that sprawled magnificently on the page, and computer work that occasionally shows the limitations of movie magic. But the three young stars far exceed expectations, and the adult cast is just right. If you're not already in Harry's thrall, it's an entirely different question: one we're not ashamed to admit we can't answer. — M. Pols. (PG: some scary moments and mild language) 2 hours, 32 minutes. A-

"FROM HELL": The Hughes brothers' ("Menace II Society") rather suspenseless take on the Jack the Ripper tale, adapted from Alan Moore's popular 1999 graphic novel, demands complete audience detachment. We have to relinquish our curiosity about the mystery of the Ripper and accept the movie's crazy conspiracy theory, which links the crime to the highest ranks of British government. We also have to endure close-ups of throat cuttings and accept the silly notion of a love story blooming among the bodies between Ripper's next intended victim (Heather Graham) and the detective in charge of the case (Johnny Depp). Depp is divine as usual, and the movie looks cool, but that's about it. — M. Pols. (R: strong vio-

EAST BAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Showtimes for Friday December 7

Alameda County

Act 1 and 2

2128 Center Street, Berkeley 510-843-3456
The Man Who Wasn't There (R) 7, 9, 30
Porn Star: The Legend of Ron Jeremy (Not Rated) 7:15, 9:45

Albany Twin

1115 Solano Ave. Albany 510-843-3456
The Affair of the Necklace (R) 7, 9, 45
Amelie (R) 6:30, 9:30

Century 16 Bayfair Mall

350 Bayfair Mall, San Leandro 510-276-5694
Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 11:45, 12:15, 1:55, 2:45, 4:20, 5:15, 6:50, 8:10, 10:25
Black Knight (PG-13) 11:25, 3:20, 5:25, 7:55, 10:10
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 11:35, 12:20, 1:05, 2:25, 3:40, 4:25, 5:20, 6:15, 7:45, 8:40, 9:35
Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:50, 12:45, 2:35, 3:15, 4:15, 5:30, 6:55, 7:40
Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 11:30, 12:10, 1, 2, 3, 3:35, 4:30, 5:35, 6:20, 7:05, 8:10, 8:45, 9:40, 10:35
The One (PG-13) 10:30
Out Cold (PG-13) 11:40, 1:40, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50
Shallow Hal (PG-13) 11:55, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10
Spy Game (R) 11:30, 12:50, 2:15, 3:45, 5:05, 6:45, 7:50, 9:30
Texas Rangers (PG-13) 10:20
The Wash (R) 9:20

Century 25 Union City at Union Landing

32100 Alvarado Blvd, Union City 510-487-9593
13 Ghosts (R) 11:45, 2, 4:35, 7:10, 9:30, 11:45
The Affair of the Necklace (R) 11:30, 12:15, 5, 7:40, 10:25
Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 11:15, 12:15, 1:45, 2:55, 4:15, 5:30, 6:50, 8, 9:20, 10:35, 11:50
Black Knight (PG-13) 12, 12:40, 2:20, 3, 4:45, 5:20, 7:30, 8:10, 9:50, 10:30, 12:05
Domestic Disturbance (PG-13) 12:45, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:10
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 11:45, 12:20, 1:05, 1:35, 2:25, 3:05, 3:40, 4:25, 4:55, 5:40, 6:25, 7, 7:45, 8:15, 9, 9:40, 10:20, 11:05, 11:35
Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:15, 12:25, 1:40, 2:45, 3:55, 5:05, 6:15, 7:25, 8:35, 11
Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 11:35, 12:05, 12:35, 1:10, 1:45, 2:15, 2:45, 3:20, 3:55, 4:25, 4:55, 5:25, 6:35, 7:05, 7:35, 8, 8:05, 8:40, 9:15, 10:15, 10:45, 11:20, 11:55, 12:10
The One 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50, 12
Out Cold (PG-13) 12:30, 2:50, 5, 7:15, 9:25, 11:40
Shallow Hal (PG-13) 11:50, 2:30, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30
Spy Game (R) 12:10, 1:15, 3, 4:05, 5:15, 7, 8:45, 9:55, 11:35
Texas Rangers (PG-13) 10, 12:05
Training Day (R) 11:40, 2:30, 5:10, 7:55, 10:40
The Wash (R) 10:40

Chabot Cinema

2655 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 510-582-2255
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (R) 1, 4:30, 8

Chabot Space & Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 510-336-7300
Mysteries of Egypt (Not Rated) 1, 7:30
The Living Sea (Not Rated) 11:30, 3:30, 8:30
To Be An Astronaut (Not Rated) 10:30

Elmwood 3

2966 College Ave., Berkeley 510-849-5230
The Closet (R) 7:45
Focus (PG-13) 5, 9:15
Novocaine (R) 5:30, 7:30
Serendipity (PG-13) 7:20
Tape (R) 6, 9:30
Tell Me Something (Not Rated) 9:10

Fine Arts Cinema

2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-1143
Detour (Not Rated) 7:30
Miller's Crossing (Not Rated) 8:55

Renaissance Grand Lake Theatre

3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland 510-452-3556
Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:35
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 12:30, 3:45, 7
Monsters, Inc. (G) 12, 2, 4, 6:15, 8:15
Spy Game (R) 12:15, 3, 6:30, 9:15

Jack London Cinema

100 Washington, Oakland 510-433-1320
Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 7:55, 9:50, 10:30
Black Knight (PG-13) 11:40, 2:35, 5, 7:25, 10
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 12, 1:10, 3:30, 4:35, 7:05, 10:20
Monsters, Inc. (G) 10:50, 1:20, 3:40, 6, 8:20, 10:40
Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 10:45, 11:15, 11:45, 1:30, 2, 2:30, 4:15, 4:45, 5:15, 7, 7:30, 9, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45
Spy Game (R) 11:05, 1:55, 4:55, 7:50, 10:45

Hayward 9

1901 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 510-785-8000
Domestic Disturbance (PG-13) 11:30, 2, 4:20, 7, 9:20
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 12, 12:30, 1, 4, 4:30, 5, 7:30, 8, 9:30
Heist (R) 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:40, 10
Life As a House (R) 12:40, 4:10
Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:40, 12:10, 2:10, 2:30, 4:40, 5:10, 7:10, 7:45, 9:40, 10:10
The One (PG-13) 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10
Out Cold (PG-13) 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10

Naz 8 Cinemas

3940 Argonaut Way, Fremont 510-797-2000
ABCD (Not Rated) 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Asoka (R) 5, 9
Bewandars 7, 9, 11
Enshaas (Not Rated) 5, 9
Shahjahan 9
Tere Mera Saath Rahen (Not Rated) 5, 9

Renaissance Oaks Theatre

1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 510-626-1836
Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 7, 9:20
Heist (R) 7:30
Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Film of Animation (Not Rated) 6, 8:45

Piedmont Theatre

4186 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-843-3456

The Affair of the Necklace (R) 1, 4, 6:45, 9:15
Amelie (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:30
The Man Who Wasn't There (R) 1:15, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-3456
Bread and Tulips (PG-13) 1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50
The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition (G) 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:45
Fat Girl (Not Rated) 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:55
K-Pax (PG-13) 1:30, 7
La Buhe (Not Rated) 2, 4:30, 6:55, 9:25
Life as a House (R) 4:15, 9:40
Monsters, Inc. (G) 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8, 10:10
Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 1:10, 2, 3:40, 4:40, 6:15, 7:15, 8:50, 9:50
Sideways (Not Rated) (R) 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55
Waking Life (R) 1:50, 4:20, 6:40, 9:10

United Artists Berkeley

2744 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-1487
Black Knight 11:15, 2, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 12, 1:30, 5, 7, 8:15, 11, 2:30, 5:55, 9:30
Shallow Hal (PG-13) 12:30, 3:30, 7, 9:45
Spy Game (R) 12, 3:15, 7:05, 10:30
Texas Rangers (PG-13) 5:15
Training Day (R) 11:30, 2:25, 7:45, 10:35
The Wash (R) 3:30, 10:15

United Artists Emery Bay

6330 Christie, Emeryville 510-420-0177
Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 11:15, 2, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15, 12:30
Black Knight 10:45, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 11, 12:30, 2:30, 4, 5:55, 7:30, 9:30, 10:45
Life As a House (R) 11, 2, 7:20, 10:20
Monsters, Inc. (G) 10:30, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:30
Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 10:45, 11:45, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7, 8, 9:45, 10:45, 12:30
Shallow Hal 11, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30, 12:20
Spy Game (R) 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 12:30
Texas Rangers (PG-13) 5

United Artists Hayward 6

24800 Hasperian, Hayward 510-786-3000
Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
Black Knight (PG-13) 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:40, 9:45
Ocean's Eleven 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 7:50, 9:30, 10:20
Shallow Hal (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10
Spy Game (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10

West Contra Costa

Century Pinole 10

1491 Fitzgerald Drive, Pinole 510-222-8030
13 Ghosts (R) 1:30, 3:45, 7:25, 9:30
Bandits (PG-13) 4:20, 9:25
Bones (R) 2, 7:05
Domestic Disturbance 1:45, 3:50, 7:15,

9:20
From Hell (R) 4:05, 9:05
Heist (R) 3:55, 9
Iron Monkey (PG-13) 2:45, 7:20
K-Pax (PG-13) 4:30, 9
Life As a House (R) 1:50, 7
The One (PG-13) 1:50, 7
Out Cold (PG-13) 1:45, 4, 7:10, 9:15
Rush Hour 2 (PG-13) 4:40, 9:10
Texas Rangers (PG-13) 2:35, 7
Training Day (R) 2:30, 5, 7:35
The Wash (R) 2:15, 4:25, 7:30, 9:30

Century 16 Hilltop

3280 Rockway Road, Richmond 510-759-2345
Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 11:25, 12, 2:15, 5:20, 4:45, 5:20, 7:20, 7:55, 9:50, 10:25
Black Knight (PG-13) 11:40, 12:30, 2, 2:55, 4:40, 5:30, 7:05, 7:50, 9:35, 10:15
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 11:45, 12:20, 1:05, 1:35, 3:05, 3:40, 4:25, 4:55, 5:40, 6:25, 7, 7:45, 8:15, 9, 9:45, 10:10
Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:35, 12:10, 1:55, 2:35, 5, 7:10, 9:40
Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 11:10, 12:15, 1, 1:45, 2:15, 3, 3:50, 4:30, 5:10, 5:45, 6:30, 7:15, 8, 8:45, 9:15, 10, 10:35
Shallow Hal 11:50, 2:45, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35
Spy Game (R) 1, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55

San Francisco

AMC Van Ness 14

1000 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 415-922-4262
Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 12:40, 1:40, 4:30, 5:25, 7, 8, 9:30, 10:30, 12
Domestic Disturbance (PG-13) 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 8, 10:20
From Hell (R) 4:40, 10:40
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 11:45, 12:15, 12:45, 3, 4:30, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 9:45, 10:10, 10:45
Heist (R) 1:40, 4:25, 7, 9:35
K-Pax (PG-13) 4:20, 7:30, 10:15
Life As a House (R) 1:45, 4:45, 7, 45, 10:45
Monsters, Inc. (G) 12, 1, 2:30, 3:30, 5, 6, 7:15, 8:15, 9:30, 10:30
Moulin Rouge (PG-13) 1:30, 7:40
Out Cold (PG-13) 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8, 10:20
Serendipity (PG-13) 1:20
Spike & Mike's 2001 Sick & Twisted Film Festival (NR) 12
Spy Game (R) 1:10, 4:45, 7:45, 10:50

AMC Kabuki 8

1851 First Street, San Francisco 415-391-8800
Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 2:10, 5:20, 8:15, 10:45
Black Knight (PG-13) 2, 5:10, 8:05, 10:25
K-Pax (PG-13) 1:20, 4:25, 7:20
Monsters, Inc. (G) 1:30, 4:35, 7:10, 9:35
Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 1, 1:50, 4, 4:55, 7, 7:55, 9:55, 10:55
The One (PG-13) 10:10
Shallow Hal (PG-13) 1:40, 4:45, 7:40, 10:20
Spy Game (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:30, 10:35

Bridge Theatre

3010 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 415-352-0818
The Man Who Wasn't There (R) 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45

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NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Montclair Village Holiday Celebration

**Sunday, December 9
Noon to 4 PM**

*Come see
the dancing
trees and elves!*

Come Join Us For A Day of Community Spirit & Celebration!

Friends & Family are the most precious assets of the Holidays. For all of us in the Montclair Village you are exactly that to us. The Village is unique in that it has been able to keep its small town appeal over the years with merchants who know you by name and comfortable places where people can come and mingle. As a thank you to those who know us and as an invitation to new friends we are inviting you to come and spend a Sunday afternoon open house with us and experience the spirit of Montclair.

Store Parties & Events!

Montclair Antiques Holiday Road Show 12pm - 5pm

Dust off that precious antique and come on over for a free verbal appraisal of any single item by expert appraiser Steven Jesse Mazza. Mr. Mazza is an established Bay Area antique appraiser with over 35 years of experience! Owners Niels, Rye, Chris and Percy the Pug also will be serving wine & appetizers during the event plus all merchandise will be discounted 15% for one day only! A special holiday collection of over 100 antique dolls will also be on view and for sale. Come one, come all!

Montclair Antiques • 2017 Mountain Blvd. • 510. 339-6505

California Savings Bank Winterfest 12:30pm - 3:30pm

Come join Linda Foss and her staff of cheerful Holiday Elves for a fun filled afternoon of Family fun. For kids there will be Holiday craft projects to create and for Moms & Dads delicious holiday treats and libations. Eat, drink and be merry!

California Savings Bank • 1998 Mountain Blvd • 510. 339-8933

PsHome / Sanderson Design Home For The Holidays 12pm - 4pm

Something for everyone is what is in store today. Enjoy the sounds of the EastBay Clarinet Quartet and get ready for the Create-A-Gift-Basket Extravaganza! Jeanette Patterson and her staff will show you how to make a memorable gift and impression that expresses your own personal Style! Don't forget to bring the little ones too because the Stocking Decorating Class will be in session. Come share the good tidings!

PsHome/Sanderson Design • 2020 Mountain Blvd. • 510. 339-8567

Esther's Garden Holiday Celebration/10th Anniversary 12pm - 5pm

Santa arrives to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Esther's Garden. The jolly old man left behind holiday gift cards for those who believe... the elves brewed spiced cider and baked cookies. Mrs. Claus hired the merry maids to hang the tinsel, wrapped the gifts and filled the stockings. Rudolf and the Garden crew await your arrival on December 9th between 12pm and 5pm.

Esther's Garden • 6126 La Salle Avenue • Oakland, CA 94611 • 338-0788

Sarber's Camera Winter Wonderland 12pm - 4pm

Grab your coat, hat & mittens and get a free 4 X 6 photo taken in front of Sarber's winter snow scene! Your free 4 X 6 photo will be available for pick up on Tuesday, December 11th, and is perfect for creating unique Holiday Greeting Cards. As an added bonus with your photo you will receive a 20% off drink coupon at next door neighbor Valley Java 2. In addition, Sarber's Portrait & Framing at 6232 La Salle Avenue is featuring a gallery art show of framed children's art by local artist Dan Mitre. Sleigh bells ring, are you listening?

Sarber's Camera • 1958 Mountain Blvd. • 510. 339-8545

Waggers Santa Paws Fundraiser 11am - 4pm

Here is a fantastic opportunity to have you and your pet photographed with Santa and at the same time support two local volunteer groups that are dedicated to saving and improving the lives of dogs in the East Bay. The Smiley Dog Rescue is a group of volunteer dog lovers whose mission is to rescue, provide sanctuary, and ultimately re-home abandoned, stray and neglected dogs. Without the help of a caring community of volunteers many of these animals face certain death. O'DOG, the Oakland Dog Owner's Group has raised the bar of responsible dog ownership and increased the awareness of community advocacy for off leash recreational space in Oakland's Park System.

When you purchase a photo package of you and your pet, other dogs are the winners! 100% of all proceeds benefit the two groups. Raffle tickets will also be sold for a whole array of prize packages. Thank you very much for helping save and improve the lives of these deserving doggies! Sarber's Camera has generously donated the film and processing to Smiley Dog Rescue for the event.

Waggers • 6206 La Salle Avenue • 510. 339-7297

2ND Edition Books & Gifts Old Fashioned Holiday 12pm - 5pm

Join your hosts Carolyn, Debbie and Helen as they serve up some special Holiday fare for the whole family. Hot cider, homemade cookies, and lots of peppermint. Have a cup of cider while browsing for both new and used books, and as always, those last minute gift items. Free gift-wrapping is available for all of your 2nd Edition purchases and shipping for a reasonable fee. See you there!

2nd Edition Books & Gifts • 6120 La Salle Avenue • 510. 339-8210

A.G. Ferrari Foods Viva Le Feste 12pm - 5pm

Celebrate the holidays in authentic Italian style. Come and sample a variety of specially selected Italian wines, flavorful artisan cheeses and traditional holiday sweets from all over Italy. We look forward to sharing the joys of the Italian table with you.

A.G. Ferrari Foods • 6119 La Salle Avenue • 510. 339-9716

What The Traveller Saw Cabana Christmas Party 1pm - 5pm

Cha Cha Cha to Ooh La La! Come join owner Michael Silverman and his staff for a fun filled afternoon of free music, finger food, and drinks! We begin the party at 1:00 pm with Juanita Ulloa & friends singing music from her Latin music Cd's and selections from her Parents Choice Award Winner series "Canta Conmigo" (Sing With Me) for children. Then we kick the party up a notch with the Aaron Bolista & Friends bringing you the Holiday rhythms of the Middle East and Klezmer. Plus an all day demonstration of "Papel Picado" the art of paper cutting by international artist Enrique Martinez. Last years' party was a big blowout shindig affair. Be sure to drop by and check out the action!

What The Traveller Saw • 6128 La Salle Avenue • 510. 339-8152

Montclair Sports Winter Snowlapalooza 2pm - 4 pm

Last year's fashion, this year's snow? Not! Come check out the hottest winter fashions and see how you can be styling on the slopes. Also they will have the latest gear in stock for skiing & snowboarding. So don't be a snow potato! Get down here and preview the goods. Tom Revelli will see you there.

Montclair Sports • 1970 Mountain Blvd. • 510. 339-9313

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SUPPORT OAKLAND**

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MERCHANTS
SHOP IN MONTCLAIR VILLAGE**



**Fire Station 24 will be
collecting for Disaster
Relief and Toy Drive**

**FREE DECEMBER
WEEKEND PARKING
IN THE MONTCLAIR
PARKING GARAGE**

Montclair Business Association 2001 Holiday Window Contest

Vote the best Holiday window when you Shop the Montclair Village to win big prizes:

- 1st prize: Golden State Warriors Courtside Seats Vs The Miami Heat Monday, January 14, 2002, A \$400.00 Value donated by the Hills Newspapers!
- 2nd prize: A \$200.00 Savings Bond Donated by California Savings Bank
- 3rd prize: A \$200.00 Savings Bond Donated by Bank of America
- 4th prize: Dinner For Two at The Paragon Bar & Cafe Restaurant, A \$80.00 Value. Graciously Donated by The Claremont Resort & Spa
- Other prizes: Two \$100.00 Southwest Airlines Flight Certificates
A wonderful Orchid Composition by Montclair Florist
A Gift Basket From A.G. Ferrari Foods
Car Wash Certificates by Ken Bett's Chevron
Two San Francisco Symphony Tickets - Bank of America
- Winners: To be announced the week after Christmas. Entries may be turned in at any participating store or Returned to The Montclair Business Association
1980 Mountain Blvd. Suite 205
Oakland, Ca 94611

Entries must be postmarked no later than December 24th!

Convenient validated parking in the Montclair Garage at top of La Salle Avenue Free three hour parking meters every Saturday during the month of December Entry winners will be notified by phone.

Entry Form

First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:
Address:	Street:	
	City:	State Zip
Telephone:	Fax:	Web/E-mail

My choice of windows Shop Name

First choice:
Second choice:
Third choice:

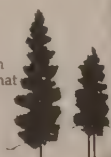
A Message from Al Briscoe - MBA President

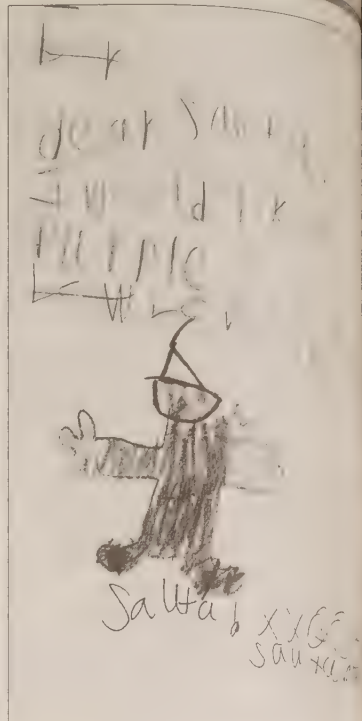
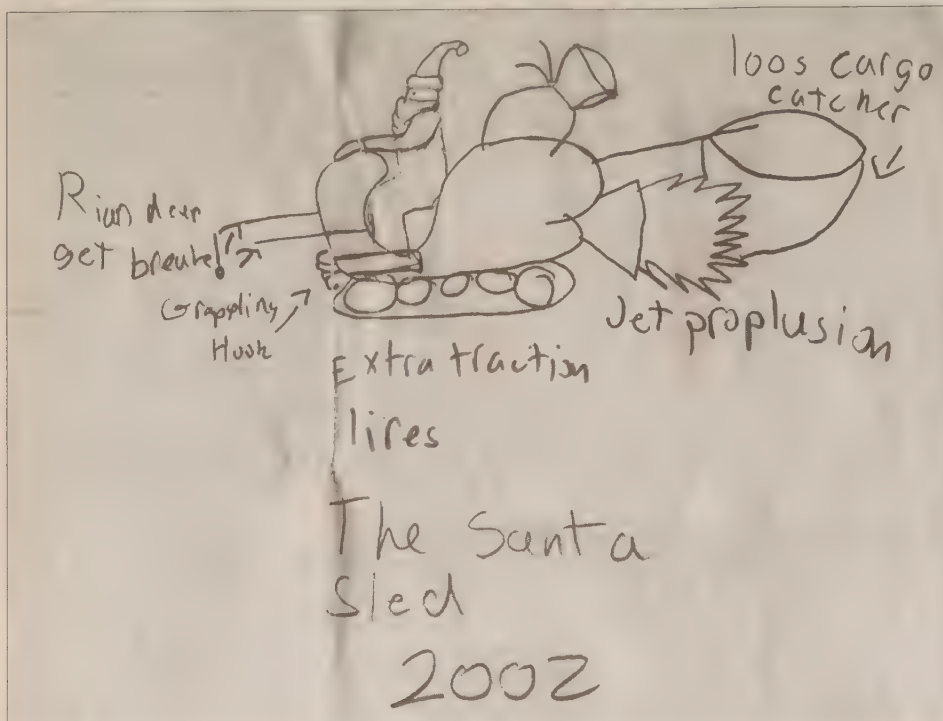
As we move further into the new Millennium and roll into the Holiday Season once again, reflections of 2001 clearly mark it as one of the most significant years in world history. From the ashes in New York a patriotic spirit has united America and spread a message for world peace and tolerance that we hope children will finally understand.

We have all suffered the emotional effects and are adjusting to life changes and financial repercussions since the events of September 11th that added to an already slowing economy. Now is the time we must reach out to one another and be supportive.

We, as retailers, love our Village and know you do too! Many of the storeowners live in Montclair and truly understand what community is all about. The Montclair merchants are urging all our neighbors and customers to remain loyal to Montclair stores this Holiday Season and shop locally. For the first time, we have a great window contest that encourages you to come and shop.

Peace On Earth & Good Will To All!
Al Briscoe, A.G. Ferrari





DEAR SANTA, Hi again! I thought I would give you a hint or two on what I want for Christmas. Just to make it a bit easier on your reindeer, I want gift certificates. I like the following stores: Target, Ross, Basic, Clothesline, Wherehouse, J.C. Penny's, Tower Records. Always, Tiffany." (Oakland)

"Dear Santa, My new brother, Jason, came from another country, and he didn't get any toys last year. Did you go to his house last Christmas? Or maybe you didn't know where he lived? Anyway, he lives here now, so you can bring all his presents here. Love, Justin." (Alameda)

"Dear Santa, My favorite holiday is Christmas. I have blue eyes. My favorite color is blue. I have blond hair. I have an accent. I have athlete's foot. The end. From Stevie." (Piedmont)

"Dear Santa Claus, This Christmas Eve, could you build a chimney for us? It fell down in an earthquake. Love, Adriana." (Berkeley)

"Dear Santa, I do believe in you, but sometimes I have my doubts. I am very sorry about that. I just hope you can forgive me. I think I have been a pretty good girl this year, although like most children, I do get in trouble. Sincerely, Shannon." (El Cerrito)

"Dear Santa Claus, Thank you very much for your gifts in the past. I would not like any presents this year. Please give my presents to someone in Afghanistan. Love, August." (Berkeley)

"Dear Santa, You are so lucky! I have never had a white Christmas. I'd love one, but it would never happen because I live in California. That's my biggest wish for the year — to have a white Christmas. Stay warm, and please tell Mrs. Claus to take care and have a merry Christmas. Love, Shelley." (Albany)

"Dear Santa, I am sad because my mom said there isn't going to be money for Christmas. Not even one toy. I got 4 brothers and 3 sisters. My sisters and brothers were sad, too. My favorite toy is Dragon Ball, but you can bring me anything. As long as it is a present, I will be happy. If you can, please bring us clothes. We really need them. Adrian." (Oakland)

"Dear Santa Claus, How are you and Mrs. Claus? Have I been a good boy this year? Well, if I have, I would like blue and white Heelies. My sister, Jennifer, is hoping for a tabletop water fountain. If it's not too much trouble, please

to: Santa!

By Martin Snapp
CORRESPONDENT

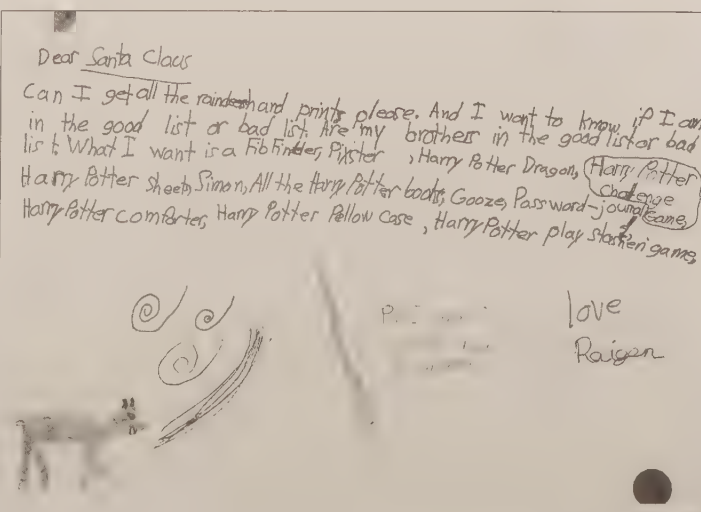
DEAR SANTA," writes a little boy in El Cerrito named Noel (no kidding), "I'm sorry I can't come to the mall this year, but I think you'll understand."

This is no ordinary Christmas season. Hanging over the holiday is the shadow of Sept. 11. And no one is feeling it more than our children, who are writing letters to Santa this year in record numbers.

Not that they all talk about the terrorist attacks (although some do). But you don't have to be a psychologist to figure out that in stressful times like these, kids will seek reassurance in the tried-and-true, like a letter to Old Saint Nick.

Before 1985, letters to Santa ended up in the dead dead letter room at the downtown Oakland Post Office, where they were thrown away. But that year, Elma Ramirez was put in charge of the Consumer Affairs Office. She was so touched by some of these letters, she decided to answer them herself.

Her fellow postal workers pitched in, and a holiday tradition was born. Every year, they divide the letters into two big piles: one labeled "needy," the other labeled "greedy." And every year, we publish the cream of the crop and encourage our readers to answer some letters themselves. (See the accompanying sidebar on how you can do this.) Here's a sample of this year's crop.



make it sort of Zen or Japanese style. Sincerely yours, Michael." (Piedmont)

"Dear Santa Claus, I've been thinking about my first letter I wrote you and I've changed my mind. So I'll just tell you what I would like now. So here I go! (Followed by list of 10 items) Love, Caitlin" (El Cerrito)

"Dear Santa, Hello! It's me, Holly! Thank you so much for convincing my parents to get

me a dog! They are the sweetest things! Don't be surprised if they bark at you when you come this year. They're just saying Merry Christmas. They aren't dangerous. The worst they can do is nibble on your fingers. If you can find a little bit of time, Santa, please drop off two dog bones for them. Love, Holly." (Albany)

"Dear Mrs. Santa Claus, Will you please send me your cookie and jelly recipies? I

would like to hand down Christmas recipes from generation to generation. I hope you have a nice Christmas. From Anna." (El Cerrito)

"Dear Santa, Can you spend the night? You can sleep on the couch. You'll love my mom's cooking! Love, Jennifer." (Kensington)

"Dear Santa, Don't be surprised if we give you more than milk and cookies this year. I'm asking my parents if

we can give you a present. Signs are pointing to yes! I'm not telling what we are getting you, though. I just really want you to know how much I love you, Santa. I may be almost 12, but I will always love you and believe in you, and give you the greatest of respect. Love, Leslie." (Piedmont)

"Dear Santa, How are you doing? I'm doing fine! I think I have been good. May I please have a Razor scooter? I promise I won't forget your cookies! Love, Colby." (Berkeley)

"Dear Santa, I've been a good boy. I will try to keep being a good boy every day. God will help me. See you at Christmas! Love and cookies, Ethan" (Oakland)

"My dearest Santa, I promise I will be a very good girl. I will mind Mommy, Grandma and Grandpa and clean my room. I also promise to not fight with or be mean to my little sister. I will also be good at school. I love you, Santa. Love, Paige." (Alameda)

"Dear Santa, This year, I'm not going to be as picky. I am enclosing a list of things I want. These are your choices. I hope you choose wisely. From Trevor." (Berkeley)

HOW YOU CAN PLAY SANTA

WOULD YOU like to play Santa to a serving child? Call Elma Ramirez or her fellow elves — Margarita Abbott, Margarita Wilensky, Brenda P. Margarita Christobal, Melvin Richards, Carlos, Janet Ezell, Lisa, and Barbara Schaefer — 510-251-3371 or fax 510-451-2067. Just tell them many letters you want to answer, and they'll be glad to mail or FAX them to you.

"You don't have to be present," says Ramirez. "These kids are so tired just to hear from someone who cares." On the other hand, if you're motivated to send a present, nothing is stopping you.

Be creative! (But be prepared to answer the question that pops up in every letter: "How's Rudolph?")

In the end, you'll get the secret that everyone gets involved with this project: discover: You get more than you give. In naive, these kids tell us of the true meaning of Christmas.

Please give Ramirez her fellow elves a call. Come away feeling good, over, inside and out. Besides, it's fun!

Merry Christmas!

"Dear Santa, I want this letter cause I'm sad 6 brothers and sisters. We got no money to rent apartment. Santa, help! You don't have to do it for me, but for my little brothers and sisters. Please bring clothes I grow fast and clothes don't fit me and shoes don't fit me. Please Santa, I don't ask for anything else. Sincerely, Salvador." (Oakland)

"Dear Santa Claus, I like something special Christmas. I want to have a puppy. I don't know how sad he was Christmas when he was a dog. He just missed the rest of the family. Daddy had a dog and was a little boy, but my man shot her. Santa, consider giving Daddy a puppy. I know it's a lot, but I can give you money to the puppy. I have 112 dollars to do this for me. I want \$5 as a starter. Love, P.S. Why is it fair to bring home a puppy with confirming? Dad, but when he was a dog, she says. I need any more people to bring home a puppy and city withheld."

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*Securities offered through GBS Financial Corp., 795 Farmers Lane Suite 28, Santa Rosa, CA. 95405
(707)568-2400 Member NASD/MSRB/SIPC

Calendar

December

December 1 - New Year's Eve is celebrated on the night of Dec. 31. New Year's Eve parties and parties are held all over the city. The city's celebration is held at the city hall. The celebration is held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 31. Details 527.

December 2 - The city's celebration is held at the city hall. The celebration is held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 2. Details 527.

December 3 - The city's celebration is held at the city hall. The celebration is held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 3. Details 527.

December 4 - The city's celebration is held at the city hall. The celebration is held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 4. Details 527.

December 5 - The city's celebration is held at the city hall. The celebration is held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 5. Details 527.

December 6 - The city's celebration is held at the city hall. The celebration is held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 6. Details 527.

December 7 - The city's celebration is held at the city hall. The celebration is held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 7. Details 527.

December 8 - The city's celebration is held at the city hall. The celebration is held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 8. Details 527.

December 9 - The city's celebration is held at the city hall. The celebration is held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 9. Details 527.

December 10 - The city's celebration is held at the city hall. The celebration is held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 10. Details 527.

December 11 - The city's celebration is held at the city hall. The celebration is held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 11. Details 527.

December 12 - The city's celebration is held at the city hall. The celebration is held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 12. Details 527.

able to the public and the great variety of workshops held every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hillelsgass Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For more information, call 869-2547 or 643-7645.

Berkeley Toastmasters Club meet monthly, on the first and third Thursdays at 2515 Hillelsgass Ave. The group specializes in developing its communication and public speaking skills in the field of metaphysics. The group also learn from each other through short speeches. Call Odette Larks at 869-2547 or 643-7645.

The Kensington Senior Activity Center meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event you choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Call 526-9146 or 547-1969 for additional information.

The YWCA offers free orientations every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the center's resources and the variety of workshops it offers to the public. For additional information, call 848-6370.

Speak Smart! Join Beijing Express Toastmasters. The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

Toastmasters Meeting: Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 863-6708 for additional information.

Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) meets every Thursday evening at the First Baptist Church, Richmond, on Solano below Arlington. Call Betty Coates 235-0490 for more information.

Joy of Yiddish: Yiddish conversation at 1 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffey Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Dr. Brian Kaye, a rheumatologist, has treated many patients with various types of arthritis and will be available for questions. For additional information call 204-4503.

Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together at Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillelsgass Ave., Call 869-2547 for details.

"Voices of Healing" is a group exploring the psychological and spiritual dimensions of illness and healing. The group meets on the second Friday of each month, 1 to 2:30 p.m. in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for more information.

State Health Toastmasters Club meet every second, third and fourth Thursdays of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health Building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

Higher Alignment: 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; (415) 461-5337; \$20.

Alta Bates Support Groups - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month; 1 - 2:30 p.m.; 204-4503. Call for additional information.

See CALENDER, Page C12

Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 644-6107 for additional information. The Berkeley Communicators Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 524-3765.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffey Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Dr. Brian Kaye, a rheumatologist, has treated many patients with various types of arthritis and will be available for questions. For additional information call 204-4503.

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See CALENDER, Page C12

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Calendar

FROM PAGE C11

Overeaters Anonymous. a 12 step program providing free aid for those with eating problems. meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 9 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to the third floor). For further information, call 273-9292.

TOPS: 9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stannage St. at Marin 233-2948 or Karen, 525-6858.

Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center and East Bay Neurology sponsors a free monthly stroke support group. No advance reservations are required, drop-in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium on Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight way, Berkeley. Details: 204-4503

Music

MusicSources and dance doyen Carol Teten invite the public to learn a famous 18th century dance at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at MusicSources, 1000 The Alameda at Marin, Berkeley. Following the presentation plan to remain for a reception and an opportunity to explore MusicSources and its historic instruments. Admission: general, \$18; MS Members, seniors and students, \$15. For family rates, reservations and more information, call 528-1685

The Crowden School, 1475 Rose St., presents its "Third Annual Colin Hampton Memorial Concert," at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. This showcase highlighting the most talented young string players in the Bay Area, features cellist Dana Putnam, a budding string quartet from the graduate

chamber music program of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and members of the Berkeley Cello Club performing cello ensemble music of Colin Hampton. A preconcert talk is at 3:15 p.m. Admission: \$10, free for cellists and those under 18. For more information, call 559-6910 for more information

Chamber Music Sundae presents musicians of the San Francisco Symphony at 3:15 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. The performances include Mozart's Flute Quartet featuring San Francisco piccolo player Cathy Payne, the Debussy String Quartet, and the Beethoven Septet with violinist Melissa Kleinbart. Tickets at the door: \$18, \$14 for students and seniors and \$8 for youth under 18. For more information, call 415-594-5946

The Dietz Singers, an established East Bay Women's chorus, is seeking new members. No auditions required, just a love of singing. Classical, pop,

sacred, Broadway Rehearsals Tuesday nights, 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Call Michelle 601-5624, or L.J. 482-1677

Duckskin Distones, featuring Donald Bailey on piano, vocals, harmonica Isaiah Dixon, Acoustic Bass, Michael Lankford, Drums and Larry Giustino on Fretless Gibson L4, perform every Saturday night from 10 to 11 p.m. at Anna's Place, 1801 University at Grant. All ages welcome

Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., presents Grateful Dead DJ night with Digital Dave and Jazz Z.D. on Thursday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$4. Call 594-1400 for additional information.

Friday Night Folk Dancing, 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542.

Outdoors

Learn to feed and care for orphaned baby birds: house sparrows, starlings and pigeons are introduced species that are not afforded care by rehabilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in returning these species to the wild life they deserve to have. Free training and some supplies. Call Myrna 531-3042 or Lelia 6555-3911 for more information.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, offers "Scribble Time," a technique that helps participants understand themselves and to find focus. The group meets on Tuesdays by appointments and is free to YWCA members. Call 848-6370 for additional information, leave a message for Anne Levine.

East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and

Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732 for more information. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021

Support

Alta Bates Medical Center presents a free support group for family friends caring for older adults from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., on the third Wednesday of

Lindsay Wildlife Museum
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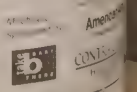
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Friday, December 7, 2001

Section D

Generation Gap: One last look at Chevy Prizm [D4]



ISUZU HAS DESIGNED its new crossover vehicle, the Axiom, to look like no other, with a massive grille and tall hood line. Its V-6 engine has more power, too.

Isuzu offers a softer, gentler vehicle in Axiom crossover

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE
Isuzu has introduced yet another crossover vehicle, a new market niche that describes vehicles that are neither SUVs nor passenger cars.

Its Axiom is a slightly diluted rendition of its ZXS concept vehicle that made its debut at the 1999 Tokyo Motor Show.

It comes in two- or four-wheel drive and in two trim levels. This week we test an Axiom XS 4x4.

Outside: Axiom has a look that won't be mistaken for anything else. Most prominent is its massive grille,

slit-like headlights and tall hood line. Sharp creases and crisp lines are tastefully executed, while the tall roof starts at the leading edge of the windshield and tapers downward to a wagon-like rear hatch.

Small amounts of bright strips run the length of the lower portion of the side windows, with black trim or a body-color motif applied everywhere else.

It's not as tall as its cousin, the Rodeo, but it is more than 5 inches longer and a tad wider than the company's most popular SUV.

Multi-spoked 17-inch alloy

TOM HAGIN
Solo Road Test

wheels and all-weather tires are standard.

Inside: Inside are healthy doses of luxury, simple, yet esthetically pleasing.

Its straightforward controls are logically situated and simple enough to use, although the center LED display crowds much information into a small screen set into a deep well at the top of the

center stack.

The front bucket seats are bolstered well and in the case of our test vehicle, covered in high-quality leather. The Axiom has many small niceties like a pair of spongy molded kneepads at the leading edge of the center console that offer a nice resting place for a tired leg.

Rear seat room is good but not great. Two average-sized adults is the prime seating arrangement but three across is a squeeze.

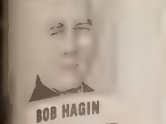
Folding down the rear seats requires removing the headrests, but

once removed, a good amount of cargo space is available and the lift-over height of the rear bumper is short so loading cargo is easy.

On the Road: The Axiom is powered by a revised version of the Isuzu Trooper's 3.5-liter V-6. It's an all-aluminum unit, with dual overhead camshafts and 24 valves.

But where the Trooper only offers 215 horsepower, through the use of revised intake runners and a relocation of the engine's air inlet from under the hood to inside

See SOLO Page D3



BOB HAGIN

Innovations that are now part of auto history

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE
Some elderly drivers pleasantly reminisce about their early days. However, I fall into that nostalgic category. I conjure up memories of some of the items that were common back then.

Some of the following were fun (and for a kid) while some were tedious but had to be endured. But they all have one thing in common: They were part of auto history now.

Hand cranks: Just getting a car started was a challenge in the old days.

Start the omnipresent Model T. It required experience, skill, mechanical aptitude, luck and an idea that was working right.

Modern gasoline engines designed on an electric motor to spin crankshaft fast enough to have valves compress fuel and air so the spark plug can ignite the gas.

But the electric starter didn't come on the scene until 1912 and then only in expensive cars.

Model T came with a hand crank that stuck out in front of the car. To get it started, the operator manually adjusted the ignition to choke.

Owner would stand in front of car, pull up on the crank until compression and then pull on the handle smartly.

He avoided pushing down on

See HAGIN, Page D2

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Hagin

FROM PAGE D1

the crank for fear that a backfire might cause a broken wrist. The Ford would usually start, according to my dad, but it was tough in cold or wet weather.

Rumble seats: What fun on a double date. The rumble seat filled the area usually occupied by the luggage compartment of a two-seater coupe or roadster.

The trunk lid covered the top half of the cargo area and swiveled in the middle rather than being hinged at the top. The short lid held a seatback and the floor of the trunk held the seat cushion.

A couple of small, permanent steps provided access. It gave the couple in back total isolation from the couple in front.

I had a '37 Dodge that was so equipped and with the advent of the motor movies, my Dodge was a popular Saturday night conveyance — except when it rained. But cold weather wasn't much of a deterrent.

Lap robes: The reason that cold weather didn't dampen rumble-seat enthusiasm was that we all had lap robes, a short, heavy blanket that was usually draped over a cord stretched across the back seat of a sedan or touring car.

In the days before car heaters, bundling up was the main means of staying warm and specially-designed automotive lap robes were almost as much a styling statement as a utilitarian means of staying warm.

My dad always had one in the sedans he owned and it was almost fun to snuggle up under one on the way home from the movies.

Later, I equipped the rumble seat of my Dodge with one. It saw plenty of use and was the catalyst for a lot of giggling.

Side curtains: Although my Dodge was a convertible coupe that sported roll-up windows, roadsters and touring cars of that and earlier times did not.

Side protection from the elements came in the form of side curtains, canvas-covered frames that were manually secured into place on the doors during inclement weather.

Although they disappeared from American cars in the '30s, many British and some German sports cars of the post-war era reintroduced them here. Even in that sporting venue, they were

a pain in the differential.

Fenders: At one time fenders weren't detachable parts of an aerodynamic body.

They were long, sweeping units up front and smaller units in back, and their purpose was to shield the vehicle from dirt, mud and water that would otherwise be thrown up on the body.

All four could easily be removed without disturbing the intrinsic design of the car very much.

Early race cars were little more than standard roadsters sans fenders and headlights. If fenders were wanted, they could be easily replaced or pounded back into shape.

Side mounts: If a car was really classy, it would often carry a spare tire mounted into a well built into the front fender. In the days before air travel, a pair of side mounts denoted an auto that was used for long distance travel before the advent of reliable tires.

Side mounts went out of favor when pontoon bodies came into style in the early '40s, and a single spare was relegated to the trunk.

Some British cars sold here carried side-mounts in the late '40s but the only currently-produced vehicle that carries side mounted spares is the opulent and very retro Zimmer that's made in upstate New York.

Leaded gasoline: I think it's safe to say that gasoline that's been laced with tetraethyl lead is now a part of automotive history, joining side mounted spares, rumble seats and all the rest.

Ethyl was developed in the '20s to inexpensively boost the octane rating of relatively inexpensive fuel blends for use in early high compression engines.

It's proven to be a carcinogenic air pollutant so ethyl gas was phased out of the American automotive diet just a few years ago.

As time goes by, automotive articles about style come and go. Fuzzy dice hanging from a rear-view mirror were classy when I was a kid as were necking knobs mounted on the steering wheel.

Fifty years from now, I wonder what items today's youthful import scene Honda drivers will look back on with fond memories.

Aftermarket parts won't damage Civic

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

Q My son has a 1993 Honda Civic DX with about 155,000 miles on it. He wants to put a performance exhaust (louder, more open, less back-pressure) on it and claims that doing so will increase power and give better mileage.

I'm concerned that doing this may be hard on the engine or will cause other problems. Is this a good idea or will he be causing himself problems in the long run?

L.L. Scotto, N.Y.

A Welcome to what is referred to in the aftermarket parts world as "The Import Scene."

Cars like your son's Civic are the street rods of today's generation of kids just as customized '36 Ford Coupes and '32 Ford fenderless roadsters were to mine.

There's a whole aftermarket parts segment as well as magazines devoted to these kids and their cars.

Usually they first get a set of fancy wheels and low-profile tires, then they're slammed (lowered) and then the owners look into dress-up engine parts like the headers and loud mufflers your son wants to install.

I've installed lots of headers and even had to make sets for oddball engines. They don't last as long as the original exhaust manifold and sometimes warp and leak exhaust gas at the head, a bad thing if you let it go.

I doubt that it will increase your son's fuel mileage by much if any, and the only other down side is that it will annoy your neighbors. Unless he's done these kinds of jobs himself in the past,

BOB HAGIN
Questions and Answers

he will run into trouble getting it all together, especially if he breaks off a manifold stud or two.

But having had five sons (all grown now) and having been a high school shop teacher for a couple of decades, I'd say to let him do it and help if you can. It will probably bring you two closer together although you'll get grayer in the process.

Q When I drive our year 2000 Park Avenue Buick in stop-and-go traffic, the Drive gear pushes the car faster than traffic often permits.

Is there a problem, for the engine or the transmission perhaps, in shifting down to the next level and driving in that gear for an hour or so?

I find that this controls the car's forward motion better. Driving on our main highway in the morning commute is an example.

Another case is driving through our suburban town at noon.

M.E. Alamo, Calif.

A The first thing to do is to determine if the idle speed of your Buick's engine is too high. Most modern auto engines idle at around 600 to 700 revolutions per minute.

If yours is idling faster than that, it would cause your car to go too fast when your foot is off the accelerator pedal and the transmission is in Drive.

Your mechanic can test it for you using a tachometer. It won't hurt your Buick's transmission to idle along in a lower gear in traffic.

It's better than riding the brakes, which puts an overheating strain on the transmission. It can also wear your brakes prematurely.

Q At 32,000 miles, our Toyota Camry has a pan gasket on our 4-cylinder engine.

At 34,000 miles the oil leaks to flicker and dealer said that use of a synthetic oil and a tune-up. Both were changed as recommended.

At 34,360 miles the engine cold startup. The dealer then connecting rod bearings but said the oil out.

Now at 54,000 miles there's an startup that lasts a second or so something wrong on the engine. We have another couple of years of warranty.

A Those Toyota V-6 engines have a develop piston slap as they wear. The pistons are very short.

If the oil light stays on until you probably have a lubrication problem. If the dealer's shop doesn't want to complain at every service and on the repair order. Then if possible, later, you can back up a position.

Bob Hagin writes for i-ads.com. Service in Concord, Calif. Write to him at Newsletters, PO Box 5088, Hemet, 94596. Send a self-addressed, Bob regrets he cannot answer.

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Chevrolet's Prizm sedan built in the USA by Toyota

IMAGINE NEWS SERVICE

MATT AND BOB HAGIN
Generation Gap

Bob: This is the last year for the Prizm, Matt. It's been on the market since 1989 but back then, it was marketed under the Geo brand name and sold through Chevrolet dealers.

But it has always been more-or-less a Toyota Corolla with just enough twists to make it different from its Japanese clone.

In fact, they're both made at the NUMMI plant in Fremont and I've always been amazed that on the assembly lines, there's never been a mixup in which the wrong logos and name plates were put on the wrong car. General Motors deleted the Geo as a brand name and from then on, the Prizm wore the Chevrolet bow-tie rather than the small world globe that was the Geo emblem.

Matt: The Prizm has always been an underrated sedan. Dad, I think that it might have been that Chevrolet dealers were overwhelmed with models and the Prizm fell between the cracks. The current model has been in production for several years now and I'm sure that lots of them were leased to rental outfits.

They can be had with a standard five-speed transmission which gives it great fuel mileage. Around town it gets 32 miles to the gallon and at a steady speed on the highway, that number goes up to 41. The mileage with the four-speed automatic is

only slightly less but I think that the stick shift would be much more fun to drive.

The automatic comes at an additional cost of \$800 and that's the one that is most often chosen. The Prizm also can be had with a three-speed automatic but its fuel mileage is the lowest of the bunch and it's performance leaves a lot to be desired.

That's the one that's most often seen in airport rental fleets for business use so don't expect to have a bunch of these to select from at your Chevy dealer.

Bob: With the stick-shift, the performance of the Prizm is pretty good. The only engine available in any Prizm is a 1.8-liter four-banger that puts out 125 horses and the same amount of torque.

It's all-aluminum with twin overhead cams, but it lacks variable valve timing, which keeps it from being a really hot performer.

I reviewed the story we did on the Prizm in '89 and our tester stated that the car could use some attention to the suspension because it behaved badly in relatively mild turns.

Since then the Prizm sprouted anti-sway bars at both ends and the addition made



THIS IS THE LAST YEAR for Chevrolet's economy car, the Prizm, which is basically a clone of Toyota's Corolla and a mainstay of rental car fleets.

a pretty neat little car out of it. It still has drum brakes in back but some niceties have to be sacrificed in the name of cost-cutting.

An anti-lock braking system is part of the LSI option kit and well worth the \$1,800 extra cost. There's no traction control on the option list but with front-wheel drive and relatively low horsepower, I guess the factory figures that the average family driver won't get into too much trouble with wheelspin.

Matt: The interior of the new Prizm is pretty comfortable although it's a little on the bland side. The back seat has a pass-through to the trunk for skis and other long

stuff, but the seating back there is cruel to 6-foot passengers.

The sound system is the usual AM/FM radio with a CD player for the LSI package and it sounds very good. I guess GM marketers feel that a cassette player is a thing of the past, and they're right.

The wheels are 14-inches and the only thing that the skinny P175/65 tires have going for them is that they come with the car. Other than that, they complain loudly in hard turns.

I'm sure it's tough for a company to offer an inexpensive car with expensive tires. But they'll provide good service for several

years, so owners may have to wait before they can just upgrading to a more sporting tire.

Bob: Bob Lutz, the old head man at Chrysler, is the new head man at General Motors. He has vowed to shake up the products that are designed and made here in the near future.

It's going to be interesting to see if he can get "The General" on track and make an all-American economy car to sell through Chevy dealers.

Until then, the passing of the little Chevrolet Prizm is something of a sad thing.

CHEVROLET PRIZM LSI

Suggested Retail	\$14,330
Price as Tested	\$16,615
Engine Type	DOHC 16-valve 1.8-liter L4 w/SMFI*
Engine Size	109 cid/1784 cc
Horsepower	125 @ 5,800 rpm
Torque	125 @ 4,000 rpm
Wheelbase	97.1 inches
Width	66.7 inches
Length	174.2 inches
Transmission	Four-speed automatic
Curb Weight	2,508 pounds
Fuel Capacity	13.2 gallons
Tires	(F/R) P175 65R14 all season
Brakes	(F/R) Disc (ABS)/drum (ABS)
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Grand Am GT: Pontiac entry in import pocket-rocket market

BY MICHAEL J. WATKINS
 Your dad told me recently that the '66 Pontiac GT was the coolest car he ever owned. It was a very hot car even as it was in the showroom floor and that it was a constant winner in the early NASCAR races.

My dad tells tales of a '66 Pontiac GT that he owned that he modified into a race car. He even won a local drag strip race. Pontiac still makes a pretty fast muscle car in the form of its Trans Am. With over 200 horsepower, it's a hard car to beat from a performance standpoint.

But the days of big V-8s that produce tons of power have become passé, especially with the youth market. The Grand Am GT is a 3.4-liter V-6 that's standard in the '02 series which comes as a four-door sedan or as a coupe like the one we're testing this week.

The strongest engine in the Grand Am GT is a 3.4-liter V-6 that's standard in the '02 series which comes as a four-door sedan or as a coupe like the one we're testing this week. The engine technology is pretty old-fashioned since it uses pushrods to operate two valves per cylinder.

There's no fancy stuff to raise the power output. A Ram Air system that forces extra air into the engine as the car is rolling along. It's a device that my dad would recognize from his hot-rod days of 30 years ago.

It's old stuff but it bumps the power up to 200 horsepower over the standard unit found in the lesser Grand Am SE models. The air feed for the system comes through the traditional nostrils below the hood and the air intake in the front spoiler blows air to the radiator.

There are lots more things that make the Pontiac Grand Am of today different from the Pontiacs of yesteryear.

The Grand Am has for a while now been a upscale compact designed to do battle with the imports that have been taking over that market.

It has the typical compact car front-wheel drive system that puts a lot of weight over the front end, but over the years Pontiac engineers have figured ways to pretty much negate the tendency of a car like the Grand Am to understeer and wash out the driver on a high speed turn.

The GT uses traditional MacPherson suspension on all four corners but unlike the lesser Grand Am models, it has wheel disc brakes.

Mikele: The GT Coupe is a very neat package all around. The 16-inch alloy wheels are polished and it has the obligatory spoiler on the trunk lid. Its cat eye mirrors are very in and the low front bumper holds a pair of fog lamps.

Who will love the Monsoon eight-speaker sound system — it saves a trip to the car stereo shop. The trunk is carpeted and it has a cargo net to hold things in place when it's time to play Boy

BRENDAN/MIKELE HAGIN
 Gender Gap

Racer.

The dash carries the usual sporty stuff like a tachometer and a coolant gauge rather than simple idiot lights. I'm not all that enthused about the hor-

zontal ribbed cladding on the doors and the sides of the car but love them or hate them, they're certainly attention-getters. The wheel wells have slight flares over



GENERAL MOTORS/PONTIAC

them, which adds to the power look that goes with the mini-muscle genre that's hot in this market segment

PONTIAC
 Grand Am
 GT Coupe
 seeks
 younger
 buyers
 with its
 styling and
 power

Brendan: The SE models of the Grand Am are pretty interesting, too. There's a new four-cylinder base engine that's technically pretty interesting.

It's all-aluminum, 134 cubic inches with twin cams, and it puts out 140 reliable horses. That's more than one horse per cubic inch, which is pretty high for an engine that's on the bottom of the totem pole.

If it were in a Grand Am that weighed maybe 1,000 pounds less, it would be quite a performer.

Mikele: The way GM and Pontiac are turning themselves around, make the suggestion and it just might happen.

PONTIAC GRAND AM GT COUPE

Suggested Retail	\$20,690
Price as Tested	\$21,870
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Horsepower	175 @ 5,200 rpm
Torque	205 @ 4,000 rpm
Transmission	Four-speed automatic
Tires	(F/R) P225/50R16 touring
Brakes	(F/R) Disc (ABS)/disc (ABS)
Drive Train	Front-engine/front-wheel drive
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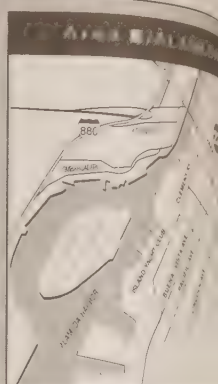
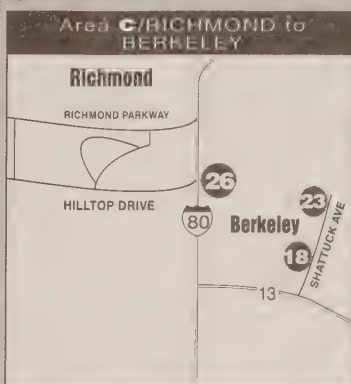
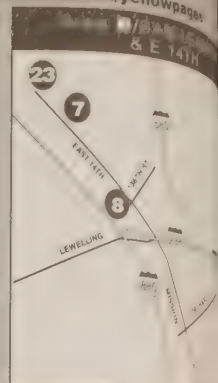
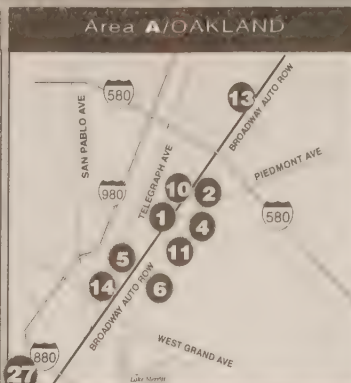
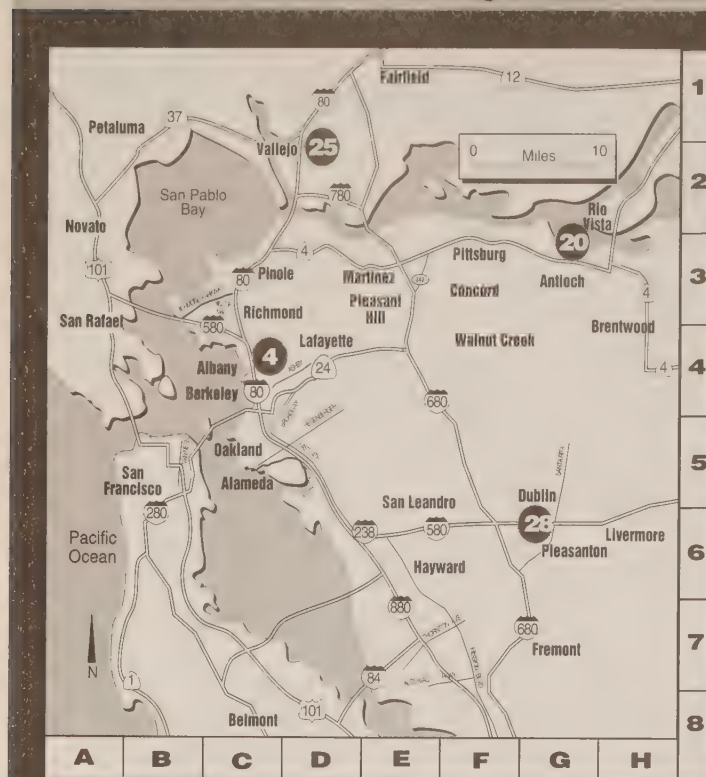
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Shopping Plus

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These cheese gift ideas are simple to make at home and sure to tantalize the buds.

• Culinary Adventure — For the traveler, a picnic basket or backpack with a variety of cheeses such as smoked Gouda, Fruity Fontina and buttery Brie. Make the gift complete with a bag of toasted nuts, fresh and dried figs and a box of crackers.

• Perfect Pairing — Spoil everyone with a variety of American-made cow's milk cheeses such as Cheddar, tangy blue and slightly salty Monterey Jack with a bottle of wine and a loaf of French bread in a wicker basket. Perfect for an impromptu wine and cheese tasting.

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• Pasta Pronto — Arrange American cheeses such as nutty Asiago, sharp Romano, savory Parmesan and tart provolone with a variety of pastas and marinara sauce in a stainless steel pot or bowl. Avid entertainers as well as busy parents will appreciate this — a party or family meal in a snap.

• Cheese Aficionado — Surprise cheese lovers with the premiere book on artisanal cheeses, *The New American Cheese* by Laura Werlin. Present a gourmet of handcrafted cheeses from coast to coast, including sweet, piquant Blue and traditionally sharp Four Star Cheddar.

• Holiday Hospitality Bags — Cheese makes a perfect gift for holiday hosts and hostesses. Simply purchase a variety of cheeses like sweet Swiss, peppery Pecato and nutty Edam. Place them in holiday bags, tie with festive ribbons and attach cheese slicers in place of an ornament.

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CHEDDAR PECAN SPREAD

1/2 package (4 ounces) reduced-fat cream cheese, softened

1/4 cup butter, softened

8 ounces sharp Cheddar cheese (2 cups shredded)

1/2 cup pecans, toasted, chopped

1/2 teaspoon minced garlic, roasted

3 tablespoons chutney, chopped

Beat cream cheese and butter until smooth. Beat in remaining ingredients. Serve with assorted vegetables and crackers.

Makes 16 servings (2 Tbsp. each)

TIP: Ingredients can be combined in a food processor; process until nuts are finely chopped. Flavor of spread improves if made 1 to 2 days in advance. This spread can be refrigerated up to 3 weeks.



COURTESY OF AMERICAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, give the gift everyone craves: cheese! Whether you create your own or order online, the possibilities are endless.

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the Holidays are about more
than just gifts...
they're about giving...*

Food and Toy Drive

November 23rd - December 31st - Collecting non-perishable foods. Collecting new, packaged and unwrapped toys for ages 2-14. Collection bins available at each entrance to the shopping center.

Change-A-Life Giftwrap & Coat Drive

November 23rd - December 24th - Weekends through Dec. 16th, then everyday from December 17th through the 24th, noon to 4:00 p.m. Have your Holiday gifts beautifully wrapped for free. Benefiting Wardrobe for Opportunity. Located directly across from The Blue Footed Booby Canoe Club.

Santa's Digital Photo Workshop

November 23rd - December 24th - Weekends through December 16th, Noon - 4:30 p.m., then everyday from December 17th through the 23rd, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; then Christmas Eve., 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Have a family photo taken with Santa. Great quality digital photos ready in about a minute. Located in the photo space near Ann Taylor.

Chanukah Menorah Lighting

December 9th - December 15th - 7:00 p.m. Join Beth Chaim Congregation of Danville in kindling the festival lights every evening in the central fountain area. Special celebrations on Dec. 9th and 14th with music, dancing and refreshments.

Holiday 2001 Events Sponsored By:

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Cheese

FROM PAGE 1

NUT & HONEY CREAM CHEESE SPREAD

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup chunky peanut butter
2 tablespoons honey
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
Graham crackers, bagel chips, whole wheat toast or apple slices
Optional toppings: raisins, sunflower seeds, honey-roasted peanuts, dried cranberries, chocolate chips, peanut butter chips
In a medium bowl, combine cream cheese, peanut butter, honey and cinnamon. Spread on graham crackers, bagel chips, whole wheat toast or apple slices. If desired, apply optional toppings.

For cheesy roll-ups, flatten slices of bread with a rolling pin. Spread two tablespoons of the spread over each bread slice and roll up tightly. Serve spread immediately or transfer to a covered container and chill for up to one week.

Makes 1-1/2 cups. Prep time: 15 minutes

NACHO SNACK MIX

6 cups popped popcorn
2 cups small corn chips
1 cup baked pretzel snack crackers or mini pretzels
8 ounces Cheddar or Jalapeño Jack cheese, cut into cubes
1 tablespoon taco seasoning mix
Place popcorn, corn chips and pretzels in large bowl. Add cheese cubes and taco seasoning mix. Toss lightly.
Makes 11 cups. Prep time: 10 minutes

HOLIDAY YULE LOG

Yule Log:
3 eggs
3/4 cup sugar
1/3 cup water
1/2 teaspoon orange extract
2 teaspoons grated orange rind
1 cup cake flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
Caramel-Orange Cream Cheese Buttercream (makes about 3-1/2 cups):
2/3 cup sugar
3/4 cup orange juice
1 tablespoon grated orange rind
2 packages (16 ounces) cream cheese, chilled
8 tablespoons (1 stick) butter, room temperature
3/4 cup powdered sugar
For Yule Log:
Line greased jellyroll pan, 15 x 10 inches, with parchment paper; grease paper.
Beat eggs at high speed in medium bowl 2 minutes; gradually beat in sugar until very thick and yellow colored, 3 to 5 minutes. Mix in water, orange extract and orange rind. Then, mix in combined flour, baking powder and salt. Spread batter evenly in prepared pan.
Bake at 375°F until cake is golden and springs back when touched, 10 to 12 minutes. Loosen cake from sides of pan and immediately invert pan on kitchen towel sprinkled with powdered sugar; remove parchment paper. Roll up cake and towel, beginning at long edge; place on wire rack and cool completely.

For Caramel-Orange Cream Cheese Buttercream:
Heat sugar in medium saucepan over medium heat until sugar melts and turns golden, stirring occasionally (watch carefully, as sugar can burn easily) to make a caramel mixture. Add orange juice and rind and heat to boiling, stirring over medium heat to dissolve the previous caramel mixture. Strain and discard orange rind; return syrup to saucepan and cook to 230°F on candy thermometer. Cool to room temperature.

Beat cream cheese and butter until smooth. Beat in caramel mixture and powdered sugar until smooth and fluffy.

To assemble, carefully unroll cake. Spread with 1-1/2 cups Caramel-Orange Cream Cheese Buttercream. Roll up cake; cut generous 1-inch slice of cake from each end. Place cake roll on serving plate and frost with remaining buttercream. Place cake ends on cake by attaching with wooden picks, and frost. Use lines of fork to make "bark" texture on frosting.

Makes 12 servings. Prep time: 20 minutes. Cook time: 10-12 minutes

For hassle-free shopping, visit www.ilovecheese.com to select cheese gifts starting at \$9.99.

Cheese samplers

• Tasty Cheese Trio — Hickory Farms flavorful arrangement of Cheez-N-Onion, Smoky and Big Barn Chedd'r cheeses (4 ounces each) are perfect for appetizers, on-the-go snacks or sandwiches. \$9.99

• Snowflake Bentley — In the spirit of Wilson A. (Snowflake) Bentley, the first to photograph snowflakes, Cabot offers 1 pound each of Classic Sharp Cheddar and Private Stock Cheddar. The cheeses are packed in a gift box adorned with Bentley snowflake photographs. \$16.95

• Savory Sampler — Surprise friends and family with Cabot Creamery's sampling of flavorful cheeses including two Roasted Garlic cheeses, Tomato Basil cheese and zesty Pepper Jack cheese (8 ounces each). \$13.95

• Vermont Sampler — Cheddar lovers will taste, compare and enjoy Cabot Creamery's selection of naturally aged, mild Cheddar, sharp Cheddar, extra sharp Cheddar and Hunter's cheese (2 pounds each). \$25.95

• Super Sampler — Sargento celebrates the season with Wisconsin Sharp Cheddar, Wisconsin Mild Cheddar, Colby-Jack, Monterey Jack, Pepper Jack (5.5 ounces each) and Baby Swiss (4.5 ounces) arranged on a reusable serving tray. \$25.95

Cheese pairings

• Village Cheer — Grafton Village Cheese Company is spreading cheer with savory half-pound bars of Premium Cheddar, Sage Cheddar, Maple Smoked Cheddar and Garlic Cheddar. Eight-ounce jars of spicy mustard and spiced apple butter accompany the cheeses. \$24.95

• Festive Flavors of Vermont — Grafton Village's gift containing Classic Reserve Cheddar (1 pound) and four, half-pound wheels of Premium Cheddar, Sage Cheddar, Maple Smoked Cheddar and Garlic Cheddar is a reason to celebrate. The cheeses are accompanied by eight-ounce jars of honey and maple mustard. \$29.95

• Holiday Treasures — Everyone will enjoy Sargento's half-pound bars of Wisconsin sharp Cheddar, Wisconsin mild Cheddar and Wisconsin mild Cheddar. Sampling couldn't be easier than with the enclosed cheese cleaver and accompaniments of savory beef summer sausage (8 ounces) and gourmet Italian chocolates (2 ounces). \$36.95

• Season's Eatings — Bring good tidings to neighbors and co-workers with Grafton Village's selection of Premium Cheddar (2 pounds), two half-pound wheels of Sage Cheddar and Classic Reserve, and two half-pound bars of Maple Smoked Cheddar and Garlic Cheddar. The cheeses are accompanied by eight-ounce jars of Side Hill Homemade jam and Northeast Kingdom Sweet-Hot Mustard. \$37.75

• Cheese Festival — Recipients will relish Hickory Farms overflowing assortment including Heritage Swiss, Smoky Cheddar and Port 'N Cheddar Cheese Logs (10 ounces each), Smoky, Cheddar, Chavarti and Chedd'r cheeses (4 ounces each), two Beef Stick Summer Sausages (14 ounces), Sweet-Hot and Honey Mustards (3 ounces each) and six Strawberry Bon Bons. \$39.99

• Italian Brothers & 3-Drum

Grater — There is nothing like warm, hearty Italian cooking to feed family and friends. As a tribute, Sargento is offering a holiday gift basket featuring sharp Asiago, assertive Romano and sweet yet nutty Parmesan (8 ounces each) with a stainless steel 3-drum grater (grates, slices and shreds). \$42.95

• Great American — Murray's Cheese Shop will prepare a tasty artisanal cheese adventure for your family and friends featuring American Cheese Society award-winners Pleasant Ridge Reserve, Mezzo Secco and Vella Dry Jack (8 ounces each). An eight-ounce jar of delicious chutney is included to spread on bread, crackers or cheese slices. \$59.99

— Ten dollars will go to the New York State WTC Relief Fund.

Cheese clubs

Hickory Farms Cheese Clubs — Deliver gifts of award-winning cheeses throughout the year:

• The 3-month club (December, April and October) features blue-ribbon Cheddar, mild Colby and delicate Baby Swiss (2 pounds each). \$49.99

• The 6-month club (December, February, April, September, October and November) features blue-ribbon Cheddar, sweet Swiss, mild Colby (2 pounds each), Swiss and Sharp Cheddar cheese spreads (12 ounces each), delicate Baby Swiss and an award-winning Monterey Jack (2 pounds each). \$99.99

• The 9-month club (December, January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November) features blue-ribbon Cheddar, delightful Colby Jack, sweet Swiss, mellow Muenster, mild Colby, world champion Gouda (2 pounds each), Swiss and Sharp Cheddar cheese spreads (12 ounces each), Baby Swiss and an award-winning Monterey Jack (2 pounds each). \$149.99

Looking for artisan cheeses of America?

It's easy to find specific cheeses and new varieties with the help of Murray's Cheese Shop. They stock the widest assortment of unique and award-winning cow's milk cheeses in New York City with convenient shipping.

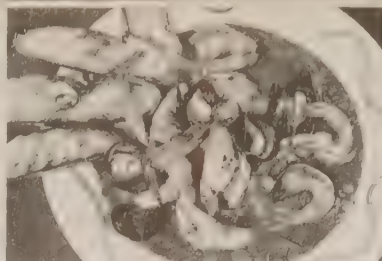
For additional cheese gift ideas or to purchase these gifts of cheese or individual cheeses to create your own gift, visit www.ilovecheese.com.

Holiday tips

Transform your French White ComingWare 10-inch Shallow Dish into a festive candle centerpiece. Intersperse some fresh cranberries with white votive candles for a festive look.

ComingWare French White Two-Tiered Serving Dish offers the opportunity to display a variety of traditional holiday treats around the house, such as gingerbread men, peppermuses, colorful hard candies and Christmas candy ribbons.

For next holiday season — think ahead. Pick some of your prettiest small garden flowers during the summer months and rinse them, air-dry them, and freeze them in ice cube trays. When the holidays come, float the cubes in a punch bowl of



BOB PEPPI NGUYEN/STAFF

Crabby Cornucopia: Sorting out fact from fiction in the story of Cioppino's origins

BY ROBIN DAVIS
THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

SAN FRANCISCO — I recently heard from a friend who's a food writer in Los Angeles, asking me who she could talk to about getting a recipe for cioppino for her magazine. But as someone who's spent a great deal of time in San Francisco, she knows as well as I do that cioppino is something of a mystery.

Sure, most San Franciscans have heard of the dish. Many have even eaten it at least once. But if the tomato-based seafood stew is the "classic San Franciscan dish" that many cookbooks and travel guides claim, then why has it all but disappeared from local restaurant menus?

To understand cioppino, you must first understand where it came from. At the turn of the last century, when the Bay was still full of sweet crabs, Italian immigrants became San Francisco's primary fishermen. Soon the Italians saw another opportunity at the Wharf: restaurants to feed the growing city and its visitors. The restaurants started as nothing more than boiling cauldrons of water into which live crabs were plunked. Over time, full-service restaurants sprang up, serving food the immigrants remembered from their homeland, adapted to the ingredients found here.

Those dishes included what's become known as cioppino, though there's much debate over what dish or Italian region it actually reflects.

Some believe cioppino comes from the seafaring town of Genoa, from a dish called zuppa di pesce that was shortened to zuppinna or zuppinno. Food writer and cookbook author John Mariani agrees the dish actually hails from the Ligurian region, but from the dish cioppino.

Others say a dish so rich in

tomato and spices must have come from sun-drenched Naples or Sicily, and that the name is a variation of the word succiare or inzuppare which means to suck or soak.

There are even those who say it wasn't the Italians that created this dish at all but the Portuguese.

Probably all of the stories have some degree of authenticity because, in fact, the people who settled in San Francisco came from all those regions. And the one truth about cioppino is that there are as many recipes for it as there are cooks. The only ingredients the dish always has are crab and tomato.

But why has cioppino lost its popularity at restaurants? It appears to be an image problem. And in a town that's concerned with its food image, that's bad news.

As Fisherman's Wharf became more of a tourist destination, many of the waterfront restaurants declined in quality. Locals stopped going and turned their back on most things associated with the Wharf: clam chowder in a sourdough bread bowl, crab stands and cioppino.

Cioppino has another problem: It's hard to eat gracefully. Remember that it was a dish originally served to fishermen who didn't care much if they had to crack open crab legs or if they dribbled broth down the front of their shirts. But if you're eating at a tony San Francisco restaurant and wearing a nice dress or jacket, you might think twice about ordering this dish.

But just because cioppino is hard to find at restaurants, doesn't mean it's not a wonderful dish. Full of crab legs and whatever other seafood the cook can find in a rich tomato broth, it's hearty and delicious. But perhaps the best rendition of an old San Francisco classic needs to come from home.

WALNUT CREEK
Yacht Club in Walnut Creek serves Cioppino with garlic toast.

1. 2 cups of...
2. 1 cup of...
3. 1/2 cup of...
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Best dressed gingerbread person


BY CAROL J.G. WARD
KNIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS
Mr. Blackwell has his annual best-dressed picks, and now Baker's Joy is looking for "America's Best Dressed Gingerbread Person."

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Bogle Chardonnay	\$5.99
Bogle Old Vine Zinfandel	\$5.99

SPARKLING WINES

Bogle Pinot Grigio	\$5.99
Bogle Chardonnay	\$5.99
Bogle Old Vine Zinfandel	\$5.99

EL DAW'S CASHMERE

100% Pure top grain cashmere
best quality ever

**Moth free, Color fast,
Good tension, excellent handfeel**

We carry sweaters for ladies and gentlemen
Scarves, gloves, throws, capes, shawls, dresses
Pants, skirts, socks, footies, etc. cashmere from head to toe.

Big Holiday Sale on Selected Items
Savings from **25%-50% off**
Discounts on Men's & Women's Classics

Sale starts today

(925) 932-2098 Broadway Plaza at Macy's corner, Walnut Creek, CA

Appearance Enhancement Clinic

925 • 280 • 9700

Actual Fotofacial™ patient.

Aesthetic Facial Surgery
Breast Augmentation & Reduction
Liposuction & Body Contouring
Endermologie™
Vasculite™ (various veins & large spider veins)
Fotofacial™ (rosacea, embarrassing flushing, sun spots)
Botox® & Collagen Treatments
Microdermabrasion & AHA Facial Treatments

Fred Suess, M.D. Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
130 La Casa Via, Bldg. 2 Ste. 110, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Martinis • Top Shelf Bar

We Proudly Present
the
Grand Opening
of

Patrick David's

Restaurant & Bar

Wednesday Dec. 5th

Reservations: 925-838-7611 • Catering: 925-855-4688

Danville Livery Shopping Center
416 Sycamore Valley Road, Danville, Ca 94526

More Seating

Now's The Time to Boot Up!

Walkabout Footwear

"Shoes for All Walks of Life"

937-walk (9255)

1815-C Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek
2 blocks east of John Muir Hospital • Free Parking
Open Daily 9-6, Thur: 'til 8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4
www.walkaboutonline.com

Save 20%

WORLD MARKET

Others good while supplies last • Offers end 12/16/01.
1-800-COST PLUS for locations and hours. Or visit us at www.costplusworldmarket.com

Style and Function

PREMIER KITCHENS

Our creative design team will tailor your WoodMode kitchen to reflect your needs and lifestyle - all within your budget.

Visit our Showrooms at Orinda Theatre Square Orinda
925.253.9800
1432 S. Main (across from Kaiser) Walnut Creek
925.472.0700
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Shop Downtown Walnut Creek for the Holidays!

Where you'll find everything on your list ...

- ✓ Unique Shops
- ✓ Top Rated Cuisine
- ✓ Specialty Foods & Coffees
- ✓ Great Entertainment
- ✓ Business & Personal Services and Much More!

Downtown Walnut Creek Gift Certificates
Now Available
Call the Downtown Business Association
(925) 933-6778

Tips for a relaxed holiday

HTTP://WWW.EXNETIASTATE.ED

Savor the upcoming traditions. Observe your family rituals, even if it means missing the neighbors' caroling party or a dinner with out-

of-town friends. Take the time you need to enjoy the meaningful rites your kids look forward to all year long.



Free
In-home
Estimates

Visit Our
4,000 Sq. Ft.
Showroom

Replace Your Windows To...

- Reduce Condensation
- Reduce Outside Noise
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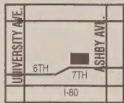
Reduce Energy Costs

V&W Patio Door & Window Co., Inc.
2815 7th St., Berkeley

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Hours: M-F 8-5 • Sat. 10-3

Lic. #424306 • Since 1959



50% off everything!

manufacturer's suggested retail

50% Off Everything for the Holidays:

Pre-light and Fiber-Optic Trees, Tree Toppers, Glass Hand-Blown Ornaments, Outdoor and Indoor Lights, Music Boxes, Nutcrackers, Santas, and more, much more...

Gifts for the Entire Family:

Ornaments starting at \$0.49

Water Globes starting \$1.99

Christmas Stockings starting at \$6.99

Hand-Blown Glass Ornaments starting at \$2.99

Trees starting at \$11.99

The Christmas Outlet Store

1501 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Walnut Creek (across the street from Broadway Plaza Mall)

925.935.0137

the **Christmas** outlet store

Season's
Greetings



Country Place

Assisted Living & Alzheimer's Care
1715 Olive Lane • Antioch

Invites you to reserve a studio at our Assisted Living or Alzheimer's Care Community by December 31, 2001, move in by January 31, 2002, and you'll receive the next month's rent absolutely free!

(925) 757-6278

PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED BY BARCELON ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT CORP.

Lic. #07560030



Clean up for the Holidays

Over 50 Models on Display Starting at \$29.95

SteamVac Plus
The easy-to-use Deep Cleaner with automatic tool conversion

- 5 rotating brushes deep clean carpet and scrub bare floors
- Up-front covered tool storage
- Extra tool for car cleaning
- Converts automatically from floor cleaning to tool use
- Cleans bare floors
- 27-foot power cord

Model #F5875-900

Your Choice

\$179.99

compare to \$209.99

90 Days Same as Cash

Wind Tunnel
Clean-Air Upright
America's Best Clean-Air Upright!

- WindTunnel™ Technology picks up more dirt than any other clean-air upright, including all 6 bagless brands!
- Electronic Performance Indicator with embedded Dirt FINDER™ System
- 2 Allergen Filtration Type 11" disposable filter bags
- 4-stage Micro Filtration
- 15-in. cleaning width
- Edge groomers

Close-Out Quantities Limited
Model #U5409-900

*Purchases over \$200 can qualify for 90 Days Same as Cash

*Based on approval through GE Card Services. Minimum monthly payments required. Interest accrues from date of purchase if not paid in full by term ending period.



Carmelo Plaza
(next to Molo's Pizza)

Deep Down, You Want A Hoover

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1660 Contra Costa Blvd., #C • Pleasant Hill

(925) 674-1206

Mon-Fri 9-6 pm • Sat 10-6 pm

TRADEWAY

FINE FURNITURE OUTLET
Thomasville - Lexington - American Drew - Bassett - Stanley - Bernhardt - Broyhill - Universal - Kincaid - Pulaski - Stanley

OVER 1 ACRE
of Showroom Floor Space
FILLED TO CAPACITY

TRADEWAY is a family owned business established in 1936. We are an outlet for major furniture manufacturers in their disposal of canceled, discontinued, freight damaged, and showroom samples. Our "as is" items may have damage or defects, usually cosmetic.

Due to the discounts we receive, we are able to pass huge savings on to our customers.

NEW ITEMS ARRIVE EVERY DAY



BROYHILL "Plaid" SOFA
L85 D38 H36

Our Price.....\$619.00



MAISON LENOIR DINING SET
Table and Six Chairs with China Cabinet

Our Price.....\$3625.00



THOMASVILLE "Ernest Hemingway" CHINA
Beautiful!!!

Our Price.....\$4725.00



BROYHILL BEDROOM SET
Dresser, Mirror, Two Night Stands, Chest And Queen Size Bed

Our Price.....\$1925.00

Deck Your Home with Beautiful Furnishings!

BLOW OUT SALE ITEMS

THOMASVILLE "SANTIAGO" DOOR CHEST

Our Regular Low Price.....\$1485.00

Now On Sale.....\$1300.00

UNIVERSAL "PATTERNS" CHEST

Our Regular Low Price.....\$785.00

Now On Sale.....\$725.00

PULASKI "OAK" CHEST

Our Regular Low Price.....\$735.00

Now On Sale.....\$680.00

MANY FAMOUS BRAND DINING TABLES ONLY

THOMASVILLE - AMERICAN DREW - BASSETT

BROYHILL - PULASKI From.....\$189.00 and up

Open
Thursdays
Til 7pm

MANY MORE BLOWOUT ITEMS THROUGHOUT STORE

Tradeway Furniture Outlet

10860 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito

Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. 9 - 6 p.m.,

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ALL ITEMS Subject to Prior Sale

• Many Items One of a Kind

• SPECIAL ORDERS Available at

Competitive Prices • Financing Available.

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Open Daily 10-5:30, Sunday Noon-5:00

Over 3000 in Stock, Full Rolls and Roll Ends of Commercial & Residential Carpet and Vinyl • ALL AT A FRACTION OF REGULAR ROLL PRICES

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*I believe in celebrating
every season.*

*It all starts with
cable service from
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Get cable service from AT&T Broadband by 12/31/01 and enjoy
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